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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 2012

CROESO I'R EISTEDDFOD!

The eagerly-awaited National Eisteddfod starts this Saturday at Llandow!

For the latest news, please go to page 14. On page 19, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, explains why the event is so important to the Welsh nation.

Go online for GEM Sports Extra - your round-up of sport in and around the area

FROM PENCOED TO PLOUZANE!

A delegation from Pencoed travelled to twin town Plouzane in France recently. (SEE STORY ON PAGE 2)

'Operation Angle' cracks down on town centre crime

BRIDGEND police have cracked down on retail crime with a two-day operation, to arrest suspects and deter other thieves from targeting the town.

Operation Angle led to seven arrests, including the arrest of a 40-year-old woman, who was later charged with stealing a pair of jeans from a store in Bridgend shopping centre.

A 39-year-old man was also arrested and charged with stealing a CCTV system for sale in a store on Nolton Street.

A 33-year-old man and a 42-year-old man were arrested and charged with theft and issued with fixed penalty notices.

Bridgend Neighbourhood Policing Team also conducted stop and search activities and launched patrols in the town centre.

Local Policing Inspector Paul Tinkler said: "Operation Angle came as part of our continued commitment to tackling business PACT priorities and supporting local retailers.

"I hope the operation gave a clear message to criminals that retail crime will not be tolerated here in Bridgend.

"We will continue to work with our partners and local traders to tackle theft and support the business interests of the town centre.

"Together, we can ensure that Bridgend is a safe place to work, shop and visit".

Teenage girl is robbed in street

BRIDGEND police are investigating after a teenage girl was assaulted and robbed in Pisgah Street at about 9am on Monday, July 23.

The girl was waiting at a bus stop, when she was assaulted by an unknown female, who then stole £5, before making off in the direction of the Co-operative store.

The assailant was described as white, aged 17 to 18 years, approximately 5'6" tall, of medium build, with long, dark hair. She was wearing a long white t-shirt and dark jeans.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

CALL TO LOCAL RESIDENTS...

'Support the National Eisteddfod!'

BRIDGEND county borough residents are being urged to visit the National Eisteddfod in the neighbouring Vale next week.

It is being held from August 4-11 at the old Llandow airfield near Cowbridge, and the Pink Pavilion is the focal point of the 'Maes', where the official competitions and main cultural ceremonies are held.

However, hundreds of other attractions include up to 300 stalls and trade stands.

BCBC Deputy Leader and Welsh language champion, Coun David Sage, said: "You don't need to speak Welsh to enjoy yourself at the Eisteddfod. There's a welcome for everyone and being so close to Bridgend this year, it's a great opportunity for first timers.

"Free translation equipment is available to follow official activities, and you can find out more about learning Welsh by popping into Maes D for all the information you'll need.

"Our Welsh medium primary schools are thriving and Bridgend county borough now has its own Welsh medium secondary, so I'm hoping there will be plenty of visitors from our area to the Maes this year."

Coun Sage is also hoping that visitors to the Eisteddfod will also cross the border into Bridgend county borough to visit the area's many attractions and activities.

He added: "We look forward to extending a warm *Croeso* of our own to visitors from across Wales."

Penybont Lifeguards clean up after visitors

PENYBONT Lifeguards and Tidy Towns cleaned Ogmore-by-Sea beach last weekend, collecting more than 40 bags of rubbish.

The volunteer lifeguards borrowed equipment from Keep Wales Tidy and gave up their Saturday afternoon to clean the surrounding area.

Mark Evans, Penybont Lifeguards' junior manager, said: "Our volunteers asked if they could run a beach clean because the recent good weather has resulted in a lot of rubbish on the foreshore."

Brian Jones, KWT officer, said: "We were only too pleased to help Penybont Lifeguards with their beach clean.

"We know from past experience they always have a good turn-out and more than 50 volunteers were there to help on Saturday."

Some 14 disposable barbecues were picked up by the volunteers, around nearly a tonne of rubbish in total.

Mr Evans added: "Rubbish is a real danger to children, adults and animals at the beach. Some barbecues are left half buried and can easily cause injuries because they have very sharp edges.

"We want people to come to Ogmore and have a great time, and ask that they remove their rubbish, including barbecues, bottles and cans."

More clean-up projects between KWT and Penybont Lifeguards are planned throughout the summer. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Ian Harvey at Keep Wales Tidy on 02920 726 985.

Thief steals motor bike

POLICE are hunting a thief who stole a motorcycle from Ogmore-by-Sea on Sunday (July 29).

The Kawasaki 900 was taken from the beach car park sometime between 5pm and 5.30pm.

The classic motorcycle is orange and brown in colour with four large exhausts on the rear, and officers are keen to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the theft, or noticed any suspicious behaviour in the area that day.

Contact the Vale Neighbourhood Policing Team on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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The Pencoed Twinning Association visit Plouzane

SOME 13 members of the Pencoed Town and District Twinning Association, including the Mayor and Mayoress, Coun and Mrs Williams, spent five days as guests of our twin town, Plouzane.

A warm welcome was received and a number of visits to interesting locations were organised.

The highlight was a visit to the Tall Ships exhibition in Brest Harbour, and a tour around the harbour by boat in the evening, from where we saw the Bastille Day fireworks display, lasting more than 30 minutes.

In addition to the visitors from Pencoed, Plouzane hosted visitors from two of their other twin towns – Stelle, Germany and Kilrush, Eire.

An official dinner was held on the Sunday evening with speeches and presentations.

This was accompanied by Breton music and dance and also Irish music and song. The Welsh contingent did a rousing rendition of Calon Lan and the Welsh National Anthem.

All in all, the visit was an outstanding success, continuing Pencoed's long-standing link to Plouzane. The chairman of the Association, Wendy McDonald, extended an invitation to Plouzane to visit Pencoed in 2013.

In addition to twinning visits, the association organises social events locally throughout the year.

The next event will be held at Pencoed Welfare Hall on September 26. and will be a talk by Kevin Thomas on winter flowering baskets, followed by a fish and chip supper. All are welcome, but meals need to be booked in advance.

In October, a skittles evening is being organised, date and venue to be confirmed.

Further information is available from Wendy McDonald, chairman, by email: eric.mcdonald012@btinternet.com, or phone: 01656 865633.

MS

The Association visited the Tall Ships exhibition in Brest Harbour.

Safety tests reveal most child car seats not fitted properly

NEARLY three quarters of child seats tested by Bridgend County Borough Council needed some adjusting to make them safe at a free event run by the council's Trading Standards and Road Safety teams in Asda Superstore, Bridgend last week.

A council spokeswoman explained: "Drivers were offered the chance to have their child car seats tested as part of a safety drive to identify unsuitable or poorly-fitted equipment.

"Expert testers found 71 per cent required a minor adjustment at the very least.

"Some seats were found to be incompatible for their vehicles, which may have had serious implications in the event of an accident."

Among the main problems were:

• Seats which were incompatible with the make and model of car;

• Seats which were unsuitable for the size and weight of the child;

• Loose fitting of seats in vehicles;

• Twisting of the straps of the child harness that in the event of a crash could result in severe lacerations to the child;

• Incorrect fitting of the seat into the car meaning a child would be offered little or no protection;

• Seats with broken parts.

Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, said: "This was an excellent opportunity to speak with local parents about the importance of child safety. It only takes a slight adjustment to a seat to ensure it is as safe as can be. I'm really pleased we were able to give this free piece of mind to so many people on the day.

"I'm aware that one particular couple had concerns about their young child being able to reach the release mechanism on their safety seat.

"Following this event we have been able to ensure that the seat will be fully examined by the manufacturer in order to maximise the safety of the family when travelling in their vehicle."

Ava and Eli Noble-Wears from North Cornelly, with Coun Huw David. The youngsters had their car seats tested free of charge, courtesy of BCBC.

Cadets enjoy taking gliding scholarships

TWO cadets from 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps, recently completed gliding scholarships at Swansea Airport.

The two cadets, Corporal Dan Mably (16) from Nantyffylon and Cadet Tom Jury (17) from Cwmfelin spent over 20 hours between them in the air, learning to fly Vigilant motor gliders over the Gower Peninsular at 636 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (VGS).

Built in Germany, the Vigilant is a two seat training motor-glider with a 17.4 m wingspan and cruises at 60 knots.

Their courses were at weekends and involved instruction in the air and on the ground by Air Cadet instructors of 636 VGS.

Tom was awarded his silver wings as he was able to fly a solo trip at the end of his course and said: "It was amazing and the best experience of my life so far".

Dan, like most Air Cadets, flew his qualifying flight with an instructor alongside him and was awarded his blue wings: "I'm only 16 and to be allowed to fly a glider, when I'm too young to drive a car, has been a fantastic opportunity," he said.

A gliding scholarship is open to all cadets 16 and over, who can pass a simple medical: 631 Squadron meet at Upper Street, Maesteg, on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.

The Squadron also welcomes adults who would like to help. Adults do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience and can serve either in a uniformed or civilian instructor capacity.

SM

Kenfig Hill cadets help out at royal air tattoo

SGT Kevin Gould ATC accompanied three cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC, together with cadets and staff from No3 Welsh Wing, to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire to assist cadets from all over the country in setting up the Royal International Air Tattoo – the world's largest military air show.

They arrived on the Thursday and started work in preparation for the main show over the coming weekend.

It was hard work and long days, but gave the cadets a unique opportunity to get close to the action and to meet not only cadets from around the country but also pilots and aircrew from around the world.

Cadets who attended from Kenfig Hill were, Cdt Sgt Aston, Cdt Cpl Norris and Cdt Davies.

The cadets were selected for different duties. Cdt Cpl Norris was selected for a working party that placed him in a fantastic position to meet many of the air crew and to get up close to the aircraft.

He spent some time with the Black Eagles Korean display team and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Staff and cadets are looking forward to the next opportunity to be part of RIAT 2013.

Lindsay Thomas
Secretary Civilian Committee

Cdt Cpl Norris with a Vulcan XH558 (picture taken by Wg Cmdr G W Chapman).

Who wants to build what and where?

*Specsavers – **19 John Street, Porthcawl** – Conservation style 'logo' and letters and projecting sign in 'brand.'*

*Mr Jeffrey Jenkins – **19 Green Meadow, Cefn Cribwr** – Detached garage.*

*Mr Tristan Griffiths – **10 The Glen, Bryncethin** – Single storey side extension to include garage, utility room and WC.*

*Mr Alastair McLellan – **4 Lombard Close, Porthcawl** – Extend front and rear dormers.*

*McDonalds Restaurants Ltd – **Picton Gardens, Bridgend** – Relax condition 2 of 92/1199 to allow restaurant to trade 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

*Mr Sean Rice – **Land adj 5 Nicholls Road, Coytrahen** – Proposed house.*

*Mr and Mrs Morris – **128 Glan-y-Nant, Tondu** – Porch to front of property.*

*Valleys to Coast Housing – **32 Pant Glas, Pencoed** – Single storey rear extension with associated internal and external works.*

*Mr John Thomas – **1 Dan yr Egwlys, Bettws** – Conversion of garage to self-contained granny annex.*

*Mrs Mary Griffiths – **Rear 79 Merthyr Dyfan Road, Bridgend** – Construct two storey detached property comprising 2 x self contained apartments, resub of P/11/688/FUL.*

*Mr Matthew Wooster – **5 Tremains Court, Brackla** – Remove existing conservatory and erect to storey extension to rear elevation.*

*Mr and Mrs Richard Fearn – **4 Lias Cottages, Porthcawl** – Alterations to lean-to store to form new utility room/ground floor WC and shower room.*

*Network Rail – **Bridgend Railway Station, Station Hill** – Retrospective planning for erection of an access of all footbridge.*

*Mr Bryant – **35 Westward Place, Cefn Glas** – Conservatory to rear, convert garage to living accommodation.*

*Mr Ieuan Davies – **44 St Christophers Road, Wildmill** – Loft extension and single storey side extension.*

*Persimmon Homes Ltd – **Parcel R3, Parc Derwen, Bridgend** – Reserved matters for four dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping.*

*Persimmon Homes Ltd – **Parcel R2, Parc Derwen, Bridgend** – Reserved matters for three dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping.*

Ty Hafan Scout Group helps children cope with tragedy

ONE of the worst Welsh summers on record did not put off the Ty Hafan Scout group from going on their annual camp, this year to Builth Wells.

The group, consisting of brothers and sisters of some of the children and young people who spend time at Ty Hafan hospice, had been looking forward to the trip all year.

Lynne Doyle has been the sibling support worker at Ty Hafan for the past three years.

Her job is to help brothers and sisters deal with the changes in their family life, brought about by having a sibling who needs special and constant care.

She explained: "All the young people are great, and their ability to cope with their particular situation never ceases to amaze me.

"They do need a bit of help now and then though, and knowing how much stress their parents can be under caring for their brother or sister can make them reluctant to add to their worries by talking to them about their own issues.

"That's where I come in. Sometimes older children can find it difficult to discuss their fears and feelings, but I try to create the situation which allows them to open up to me and we can work them through together, involving the rest of the family, if really necessary.

"At Ty Hafan, we arrange opportunities for the siblings to get together on a regular basis.

"It's hugely beneficial for them to be with others who are in a similar situation, and who understand.

"This can be particularly good for those whose brother or sister has died, and we run a special event every year for bereaved siblings.

"The annual camp trip is always great fun – whatever the weather, they can all let off steam and have a really good time," Lynne concluded.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur	07.11	9.8	19.36	10.0
03 Fri	07.59	9.9	20.19	10.2
04 Sat	08.41	9.9	21.00	10.1
05 Sun	09.18	9.8	21.37	9.8
06 Mon	09.55	9.5	22.11	9.4
07 Tues	10.27	9.2	22.46	9.1
08 Wed	11.02	8.7	23.17	8.6
09 Thur	11.36	8.2	23.54	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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QUEEN'S JUBILEE MEDALS FOR PORTHCAWL'S FIREFIGHTERS

ABOVE: The staff at Porthcawl Fire & Rescue Service after receiving their Queen's Diamond Jubilee Service Medals.

ABOVE: The Mayor presented a very early example of a Nu Swift fire extinguisher to station for its archive. Left to right: Carl Evans, station manager, Coun Alana Davies, Dave King and Coun Brian Davies.

Report and pictures by **KEITH E MORGAN**

FIREFIGHTERS in Porthcawl were recently presented with a token of appreciation from the town's Diamond Jubilee organising committee.

The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Alana Davies, and consort, Coun Brian Davies, visited Porthcawl Fire Station to present the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Service Medals.

They were welcomed by Station Officer David King. He is in his 43rd. year as a firefighter and is probably the longest serving Fire Officer in south Wales.

The mayor and consort were given a tour of the station before witnessing a simulated car accident.

The Porthcawl station's extrication team, under the leadership of crew manager, Peter Bevan, then proceeded to release, in double-quick time, a volunteer 'victim' trapped in a car – Fire Officer Jeff Tombs.

Following the tour and demonstration, the mayor, on behalf of a well wisher, presented a very early example of a Nu Swift hand- held fire extinguisher to Porthcawl Fire Station for their archive,

Along with this, was a book sent to the station by the States of Jersey Fire & Rescue Service, covering the history of that organisation.

ABOVE: The extraction team get ready to rescue the 'trapped' victim, Jeff Tombs.

CUT BACK ON LOCAL COUNCIL NEWSPAPER!

'...It's just propaganda' says AM

A Conservative Regional Assembly Member has urged Labour-controlled Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to scrap its own newspaper, which, he says, costs £32,000 a year to produce and deliver.

Byron Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, claimed that Labour councils were so used to spending money before the years of austerity, that they found it difficult to make necessary cuts when times were hard.

Mr Davies claimed that there was no need for councils to spend money on what was often little more than propaganda.

He commented: "It is the role of the local press to give residents information about what their councils are up to, and a lot of information can now go on-line on council websites.

"A figure of just over £30,000 is not a large sum of money out of their multi-million pound budget, but I do not believe that it is up to the council taxpayer to fund any sort of literature extolling the virtues of the council.

"Labour-controlled authorities got used to spending public money in the good times and they seem unable to cut back when times get tough.

"They need to prioritise essential front line services – that's what people expect."

KNEE-JERK

The council's deputy leader, Coun David Sage, said he doubted whether Mr Davies was aware of the sort of information carried in the council's paper.

"This naïve, knee-jerk reaction shows that Mr Davies and his PR team have not bothered to read either the Bulletin or the rules that govern local government publicity, otherwise they would realise that it is produced in strict compliance.

"Perhaps Mr Davies didn't notice the Bulletin's most recent front page article, which encouraged people to use their vote in the Welsh Government elections at which he himself was elected?"

Coun Sage went on: "Recent Bulletin articles have typically focused on issues such as fighting domestic abuse, protecting children from harmful sunbed use, supporting our troops through our Freedom of the county borough parades, and help for people with money and debt problems - hardly 'propaganda', is it?

"The Bulletin also carries information from organisations such as the South Wales Police or ABMU Local Health Board, and has been instrumental in helping residents get to grips with the award-winning new recycling scheme.

"It's an important consultation and information tool – for example, our Olympic Torch Relay edition was praised by emergency services for helping to ensure that event's safe planning."

Coun Sage insisted that the Bulletin was intended to provide 'news you can use' and was not a 'back slapping exercise'.

He added: "Of course officers are constantly looking at ways in which Bulletin can be improved or developed, but regardless of what Mr Davies thinks, we firmly believe that local residents should have this opportunity to find out what their local council is doing for them."

MAYOR PRAISES LOCAL HEROES

(Left to right): Betws primary teacher Gemma Jones, BCBC children's director, Hilary Anthony, Betws parent Emma Leonard, Betws deputy head Liz Pearce, Mayor Marlene Thomas, Betws parent Jason Tucker, consort George Davies, Coun Phil White.

I RECENTLY spent a wonderful evening in the company of some inspirational people at Bridge FM's Local Hero Awards.

I'd like to say a huge well done to each and every individual and team which were recognised.

We heard stories of immense courage, bravery, fortitude and community spirit and at moments there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

I was especially pleased to see the recognition for the team at Betws Primary who received a special gold award for the wonderful way they coped with the recent fire.

As they rightly said, they may have lost the junior building, but they saved their most precious possessions – the children.

Congratulations also to colleagues from Bridgend County Borough Council, whose partnership with May Gurney won the Green Award for their fantastic efforts to get us all recycling.

Thank you, Bridge FM and sponsors, for a heart-warming evening and a lovely reminder of the amazing people and teams who make up our communities.

Coun Marlene Thomas, ***Mayor of Bridgend County Borough.***

Marina exhibition

PORTHCAWL residents will soon have a chance to look at plans for the new marina,

From Monday, August 6, a publicity trailer will be parked at the harbour, giving details of the £3.2 million scheme. The exhibition will run throughout August.

KRUF barbecue fundraiser

THE sun shone on July 15 when the annual KRUF barbecue took place.

The event was well supported and thanks go to all concerned, especially Jean and Tony Scofield, chairman of Porthcawl KRUF, for their hospitality.

The day raised £1,032 for this worthwhile charity.

The next event will be a coffee morning at the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl on September 27, 10am-12 noon. A warm welcome to all for coffee, a chat and raffle prizes!

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bethan Hatch with the deputy mayor.

Winners Llangewydd Junior School choir.

ABOVE: The adjudicators of Bridgend Junior Choir of the Year.

Choir wins

BRIDGEND Junior Choir of the Year organisers Richard Howells and Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch Male Choir were delighted with the response received from primary and junior schools of the borough.

The following five schools were selected to take part in the final: Caerau Primary School, Garth Primary School, Llangewydd Junior School, St Clare's Preparatory School and Trelales Primary School.

Sadly, two of the schools (Caerau Primary and St Clare's Prep) had to withdraw due to circumstances beyond their control, leaving just three schools vying for the prestigious title of Bridgend CBC Junior School Choir of the Year.

Each of the choirs was asked to perform a programme of 'Own Choice' music of 12 minutes duration and had to impress the expert judging panel, consisting of Jeffrey Howard (pianist, vocal coach, musical director, arranger), Rhiannon Williams-Hale (musical director, professional accompanist) and Dale Evans (musical director – 'Bois Goetre-Hen', vocal coach, singer) who adjudicated.

Llangewydd Junior School, Cefn Glas, Bridgend, was the winner of the 2012 competition. The choir, under the expert guidance of musical director, Bethan Hatch and accompanist, Darryl Evans, has been crowned BCB Junior School Choir of the Year 2012.

They won the title at the final held at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg, Llangynwyd on July 15.

Llangewydd Junior School Choir has 27 members ranging from seven to 11 years of age and they rehearse every Tuesday after school.

During the course of this school year they have sung at many events both in and out of school, including at Ewenny Priory, Civic offices in Bridgend and, most recently, at the Mayor's inauguration ceremony.

The three songs which they sang in this year's competition final were 'Something Inside So Strong' (by Labi Siffre); 'Price Tag' (words and music by L Gottwald, C Kelly, B R Simmons and J Cornish); 'Sing Out Loud' (words Cefin Roberts / music, Einon Dafydd).

Following 30 minutes of deliberation, the adjudicators assembled onto the stage, led by Jeffrey Howard, chairman of the adjudicating panel, who eventually declared Llangewydd as the winner.

The school was handed £500 worth of music vouchers, a perpetual trophy and replica to keep at the school by Bridgend CBC Deputy Mayor Coun Clive James.

The two other schools were presented with £50 worth of music vouchers, along with a framed runner-up certificate.

Competition chairman, Anthony Mullins, congratulated Richard Howells and members of Bois Goetre-Hen on their outstanding organisation of the competition, the headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg, Llangynwyd – Mr Mark Jones and premises manager – Mr Andrew Cardy and the competition prize sponsors Neath Music Limited.

Richard Howells commended Mr Mullins on the capable manner in which he controlled proceedings.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Representing Wales!

THE choir Only Kids Aloud formed by Tim Rhys-Evans, who scoured the whole of Wales and out of 300 children, chose 85 of the best young singers.

The choir was chosen by the BBC to represent Wales in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on television.

A video was recorded by the BBC on Rhossili beach with the choir singing 'Cwm Rhondda' conducted by Craig Yates, who sings with Only Men Aloud.

I am proud to hear that there were three choristers from the Bridgend County Borough who sang in the BBC production, Lauren Coates (Bridgend), Phoebe Lewis (Maesteg) and George Neeson (Porthcawl).

ABOVE: Only Kids Aloud at St Petersburg.

LEFT: Phoebe Lewis (in red jumper), Lauren Coates (left front) and the group

Anyone for tennis?

THERE is an opportunity Maesteg Park tennis courts for youngsters from the area to master the game of tennis.

Tennis rackets and balls will be supplied and there will be coaches available for the youngsters (all free) from experienced club members and members of Pontycymer tennis club.

The junior sessions will be held every Saturday morning from 10am-12 noon for youngsters aged from five into the teens.

The senior sessions will be every Friday evening from 6pm to 8.30pm, all standards welcome.

Remembrance

CÔR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) sang at the wedding of Jacqueline Edwards and Leon Roche in St David's Church, Betws on July 7.

It was officiated by Rev Stephen Pare and enhanced by the boisterous communal singing of 'Give Me Oil in My Lamp Keep it Burning' and 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'.

The choir entertained the congregation during the signing of the register with: 'You Raise Me Up', 'Calon Lân' and 'The Rose'.

In memory of Coun C Michaelides, a service was held in Betws Primary School on July 13, attended by Mrs Felicity Michaelides.

Rev Stephen Pare read a moving account of the life of Mr Michaelides, before inviting tributes from the councillor's family, Janice Gregory AM, council leader Mel Knott, David Barnes and Derek Griffiths of the Betws Community Council, Collette Matchette, headteacher of the school and the Mayor of Bridgend borough, Marlene Thomas.

The high regard felt for the councillor was evident throughout the evening, which included a performance by Côr Meibion Cwm Garw, who sang a selection of music chosen by Mrs Michaelides, and the wonderful children of Betws School Choir. They gave a faultless performance that ended with the communal singing of 'It's Good To Be Me'.

Summer reading scheme

LIBRARIES across Bridgend county borough will be welcoming children to this year's summer reading challenge; the UK's biggest reading event for children in libraries.

The event which inspires thousands of families all over Wales to get involved encourages children between the ages of four and 12 to read six or more books of their choice during the summer holiday.

Play schemes

BRIDGEND CBC, along with town and community councils, is organising various schemes suitable for children at various venues throughout the borough.

There is the Mini Play 4 Life programme which will be suitable for children aged between 3 and 7 years and is organised by fully qualified coaches alongside the Active Young People Department.

The team aims to encourage children to have an active and healthy summer, and inspire them with an Olympic theme.

The sessions will offer a mix of children's activities that make sure everyone is active and having fun from the start of the holidays to the end.

The Wallich

THE charity gives help and support to people who are homeless or threatened with being made homeless.

It is setting up advice centres at the following locations in Maesteg: Hartshorn House, First Floor, Neath Road on Fridays between 10am and 4pm, appointments only by contacting 01656 674184 and in Porthcawl at Trinity Church, John Street, on Wednesdays between 2pm and 4pm.

PCSOs work in tandem with the fire service

PORTHCAWL PCSOs Sharyn Philemon, Leighton Rees and Holly Prosser have been working with the fire service to promote road safety in the area.

The team recently supported fire officers at a seafront event in the town, where motorists and bikers were provided with advice and given the opportunity to ask the officers questions.

Carl Evans, manager of Porthcawl and Cowbridge fire station said: "This partnership approach highlights the benefits of agencies working together in order to deliver important community safety messages to Porthcawl residents and visitors".

The group will be holding further road safety events in the bandstand on Porthcawl front at the end of August.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

ABOVE: PCSO Richard Couch and PC Nicola McGill with some of the children at the fete.

ABOVE: PCO Richard Couch, what appears to be a 'cat burglar' (PCSO Nerys Lloyd) and PC McGill.

Degree success

MANY congratulations to Hollie Allen, who was recently presented with an award by David Fitzjohn, head of fine arts at the Cardiff Metropolitan University, for studentship and her contribution towards the course as she helped organise the degree show and the degree show catalogue.

A former pupil of Cynffig Comprehensive, Hollie has gained a degree in fine art.

She received her degree in front of her proud parents, Andrew and Pat Allen, at he graduation, which was recently held in the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

Hollie hopes to become a curator in a museum, or an art gallery.

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

WELL done to Shauna Lewis from class 4 who recently went to London to take part in the National Cheerleading Finals with her team the 'Cynffig Flyers.'

They competed against major stage school and dance academies from all over Britain.

Shauna's mother said that the standard would be very high and although it would give them good experience, she did not expect them to win.

However, they confounded everybody and won the national title!

Bridgend basketball finals – Just before the end of term, the school went to the Bridgend basketball finals, as winners of the Porthcawl district.

Miss Morgan was once again in charge of the school team.

The squad for the finals was: Anwen Sleath, Luke Dingle, Jack Underhill, Connor Morgan, Senem Akpinar, Jade Walker, Louie Flower, Leon Jones, Connor Farnham, Callum Lewis, Bradley Jenkins and Ben Evans.

They enjoyed a very successful afternoon going through the tournament unbeaten to come away with the winner's trophy.

The highlight of the afternoon was Anwen Sleath's basket from way out; it surprised everyone including herself.

Most Improved Pupils – Congratulations to the following pupils who have worked really hard and shown improvement over the year: Patricia Davies and Shakur Gough – class 1, Matthew Briggs and Ffion Clark – class 2, Aaron Twose and Zuzanna Kubula – class 3, Joseph Hardwicke and Ebony Rees – class 4, Taryn Matthews and Liam Evans – class 5, Joshua Hughes and Hannah Williams – class 6, Isabella Aubin and Cameron Jenkins – class 7.

Pisgah Ladies Fellowship

SUPPER Time – Once again the ladies are laying on one of their enjoyable suppers in the Pisgah Chapel Vestry.

This time they are laying on a 'Cornbeef Pasty Supper', on Thursday, August 9, at 7pm.

For details of this and other events being held by them ring either Rhian on 01656 744772 or Karen on 01656 740684.

Last day celebration

RICHARD Goldsworthy would like to send a personal message to the governors, colleagues, past colleagues, friends and family who joined in the celebrations of his career, especially for his time at Mynydd Cynffig Junior.

Mrs Rogers, Mr Davies and Mr Alan Jones spoke of their time working with him before presenting him with leaving gifts.

The governors presented him with two crystal whiskey glasses and a malt whiskey in a presentation box.

This was followed by a gift of a new golf set and, appropriately considering the summers we get, waterproofs for all weather playing from the staff, pupils and parents.

Finally, he was given a memory book of pictures covering his early days, right through to his final day.

Kenfig Hill AFC

FOR all golf lovers, Kenfig Hill AFC are holding a four-ball team event at the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl on Friday, August 10.

Team entry for four players costs just £130, which includes the round of golf with team and individual prizes and a meal.

For entry forms and further details, contact Mike James on 07811 339829.

Kenfig Hill Wellbeing Centre

THE activities being held by 'Mental Health Matters, Wales' at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, August 8 will be Peer Mentoring Talk with Kathryn Charles from 1.30pm to 2.30pm, 'Let's get Quizzical' from 2.30pm to 3.30pm and the Reading Group from 3pm to 4pm.

Parish of Pyle and Kenfig

BIBLE Study will take place on Friday, August 10, when they will be looking at the Epistle of James. Everyone is welcome.

The Whist Club meets on a Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Church Hall.

The Mothers' Union are having a cream tea in the church hall on August 10 at 3.30pm. Tickets are just £3.

The Parish Fayre will be held this Saturday, August 4 between 1pm and 4pm.

This will be a great afternoon out with a selection of stalls and many things for the family to do.

Ian and Julie would like to welcome you to the Bonsai Club in the church hall on Tuesday, July 7 at 7pm. They would like to encourage you to go as Bonsai is a growing pastime.

For details of events and activities in the parish, ring the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500 or 07766 710373 or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**
by ***Richard Sims***
Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

HOLLIE ALLEN, at her graduation.

Neighbourhood news

AFON Yr Felin recently held a community health awareness day.

There were many stalls which were set up to encourage families to choose healthy alternatives in their day to day lifestyle choices.

Partnership agencies such as V2C, Social Services, Genesis, Youth Works, BCBC and Flying Start all attended to provide support and help families with young children in the local area.

The children got involved in face painting activities, colouring and having fun on the bouncy castle.

It was great to see our local neighbourhood policing team getting involved with the youngsters.

PCSO Nerys Lloyd had her face painted by the children while PCSO Richard Couch and PC Nicola McGill showed off the police van and all its features.

The children really enjoyed having their pictures taken with Richard, Nicola and Nerys.

With the value of lead remaining high Pyle and Cefn NPT have been receiving reports of thefts from roofs across the area, with the most recent being at the Siloam Chapel, Bedford Road, Cefn Cribwr.

The police advise people to make it as difficult as possible for thieves to reach areas where they have lead, and if you have to replace any, do so with other materials such as tern-coated stainless stee.l, which is the most common replacement and at present is 75 per cent less than the cost of lead.

Due to an incident reported to the neighbourhood team, the police would like to raise residents' awareness rogue traders.

It is imperative that you are cautious and check out these people before letting them carry out any services on your behalf.

If you feel that you have been a victim of a rogue trader, contact your local Police on 101.

If you have any concerns about the above or have any other issues, ring PCSO Jon Howe on 07805 301491 or PCSO Nerys Lloyd on 07805 301493.

Scope

A COMMUNITY Cafe Companions Cafe is held in the Rees Centre which is located at the rear of The Talbot Community Centre every Friday between 10am and 1pm.

This is the ideal opportunity to go along, have a chat over a cuppa and find out more about the new befriending project for people aged 50 and over.

For further information and details of activities and events organised by Scope, ring Heather Hamlin-Brewer on 741166.

Top class results for Cynffig!

Cynffig Comprehensive are now ranked in the top three schools in Wales!

PUPILS and teachers at Cynffig Comprehensive have had a top class end of term following their recent Estyn inspection, being judged as excellent in 13 out of 15 categories – putting it in the top three of all schools in Wales inspected over the last 18 months.

Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is achieving standards that are "significantly above local and national averages", and pupils display "excellent levels of behaviour in class and very positive attitudes to learning".

It follows a fantastic run of success for Cynffig Comprehensive, whose English department was recently judged to have the most outstanding teaching team in Wales.

Headteacher Sue Davies said: "This report celebrates the hard work of all staff, governors, parents and pupils. It also follows news that our English department has made it through to represent Wales in the finals of the National Teaching Awards. What a fantastic way to end the term!"

Invitation sevens tournament at South Wales Police

THE inaugural Colin Hillman Invitation Sevens will take place at South Wales Police RFC, Waterton Cross,on Sunday, August 26.

The rugby starts at 11.30am and this will be a great family day out with hog roast, BBQ, stalls, children's rides and much more.

Some of the teams already confirmed to support this event include Bridgend Athletic, Bridgend Sports, Glaze Charity 7, Kenfig Hill RFC, Maesteg RFC, Nantymoel RFC, Samurai Sharks 7, SWP Invitation Select 7; more details to follow.

The event will be supporting Y Bwthyn Newydd at the Princess of Wales Hospital for more details on what looks to be a great day with entertaining rugby over the bank holiday - check out the website, *www.south-walespolicerfc.com*

KM

MP'S VISIT TO BRIDGEND ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon visiting Bridgend Alzheimer's Society to hand over a cheque.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited the Bridgend Alzheimer's Society in the Angelton Clinic at Glanrhyd Hospital, Bridgend, recently to see what work they carried out.

Ms Moon MP explained: "I had a cheque for them, from another completed parliamentary questionnaire, and wanted to meet up with everyone.

"I joined staff for one of their weekly meetings, who were surprised and delighted to receive my cheque.

"They told me all about the services that they provide, offering emotional support and information and advice on all aspects of dementia and issues surrounding finance, legal matters and signposting to other agencies.

"They have a monthly carers' social group which has proved to be an important support group for carers of people with dementia; offering the opportunity to meet others in the same situation and not feel so alone.

"There is at least one dementia support worker present to offer advice and emotional support if it is required, and the group offers a safe environment for people to voice their thoughts, feelings and concerns.

"The Younger Person with Dementia group offers the under 65s the same support. They meet once a month and, again, it gives them a chance to meet others in a similar situation and hopefully enable them to form new friendships and support each other.

"I heard how successful their café at Nolton Church Hall was, offering a safe environment for people to come together where they can have peer support, access information and have a chance to share experiences.

"One of their latest projects is Singing for the Brain, and they explained the positive benefits singing has for those with dementia, which everyone enjoys even if they cannot sing!

"Finally, they have a new Big Lottery funded Side by Side befriending service, aimed at people with dementia, and will offer both one-to-one and group befriending.

"A telephone befriending service will also be set up for carers in the near future. I would urge anyone who is interested in volunteering as a befriender to someone with Alzheimer's to contact the Bridgend group."

For more information or a newsletter, contact the Alzheimer's Society, Angelton Clinic, Glanrhyd Hospital, Tondu Road, Bridgend, CF31 4LN, call 01656 753754, email:brid gend-district@alzheimer's.org .uk, or visit: http://alzheimer's.org.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

AT the recent Community Council meeting at all Saints, Southerndown, the co-opted councillors were signed in and welcomed by the chairman Coun Walters.

There were two apologies from Lady Inkin and Jill James (both of St Brides Major ward of the council).

The police were not in attendance but sent a report that there had been only one crime reported since the last meeting, a scrap metal theft from a drive at Ogmore-by-Sea.

It was reported that the Vale Council had confirmed no asbestos was found during the demolition of Sea Lawns, but a letter had been sent to the Health and Safety Executive regarding this matter under the Freedom of Information Act.

Finance was discussed and the following donations approved: yearly subscription of £25 to The Heritage Coast; £25 to the following: NSPCC, British Heart Foundation, National Eisteddfod, Bridgend Samaritans, Macmillan Cancer Support, Bobath Children's therapy centre Wales, £50 to the Ogmore Retired Residents Association and £200 to St Brides Major Primary School.

A discussion took place regarding The Best Kept Village competition for 2013. It was resolved that posters be displayed to enlist volunteers for this project. It was agreed that a further letter be sent to the Duchy of Lancaster re the cleaning of Pitcot Pool, requesting a meeting on site.

Questions were asked re speeding traffic along B4265 and concern at the recent spate of accidents including fatalities along this stretch of road; There is now overgrowth onto the pavement area at Pitcot Pool;

The council plans to investigate the cost of the professional cleaning of the War Memorial at Bull Hill.

A request is to be made that seating be placed in existing bus shelters and also on the sports pavilion field.

Objections were raised regarding the withdrawal of the 146 bus service and the council strongly recommended it be re instated.

Various committees were set up: Community Liason Officer – Coun Gerald Stephens. Conservation committee, burial ground – Adrian James, Gerald Stephens, Sue Lewis and Peter Simon. Planning committee chair Coun E J Davies.

It was stated that keys are available for the use of the slipway for boats at the Rivermouth, Ogmore-by-Sea, at a cost of £46 and £13. More information from the operational manager.

There will not be a meeting of the community council during the month of August, the next meeting will be Monday, September 10, at all Saints, Southerndown, at 7pm. The public are welcome to attend.

There was great excitement and tears on July 20 when St Bride's Major Primary School broke up for the summer holidays, as long 'limos' pulled up outside the school to take the 'leavers' on a luxury ride.

The playschool children had a farewell party for those going on to 'big school' in September.

Let's hope the sun will shine at last for the holiday period and for the Eisteddfodd commencing on August 4, at Llandow!

Ogmore Retired Residents Association met for their final meeting before the summer break for their traditional strawberry tea at Franklins, Ogmore-by-Sea.

Members are looking forward to September when it is hoped to visit The Rest, Porthcawl, for lunch. Arrangements to be made later.

The weekly tea/chat at the church hall was a bit special last week as we celebrated the birthday of Muriel Rowley, former deputy head of St Bride's Major Primary School, with a lovely iced cake. It was a second celebration for Muriel, who had a very special day with her family earlier in the week.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Cadets enjoy bevy of airshows

Sgt Peckham and cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron at RAF Cosford.

THE air cadets of 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron, along with cadets from No3 Welsh Wing Squadrons, have attended three air shows this year.

After months of organising by Sgt Richard Peckham ATC, assisted by Sgt Kevin Gould ATC; all under the watchful eyes of the Commanding Officer Flt Lt Thomas RAF VR(T), the first was to RAF Cosford on June 17, where not only did they enjoy the air show, but were also able to visit the excellent station museum.

Then, just a week later on June 23, the cadets visited the Royal Navy base at Yeovilton for their International Air Day. Again, the cadets enjoyed good weather and a full flying display and, for a small entry charge, a look around the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

The final trip was a visit to the 'Futures Day' of the Farnborough International Air Show on July 13.

Flt Lt Gary Woodward RAF VR(T), along with staff and cadets, was treated to hands-on learning on the latest technologies in the aviation industry, a talk from GKN, who construct the new Airbus wings in Bristol, and, of course, they witnessed the superb flying display.

Cdt L Peckham, who attended all three shows, said: "The best part was seeing the Red Arrows pilots and getting their autographs and getting close up to all the aircraft."

If you are male or female and at least 13 years old, then why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC. We are also looking for adult staff members and civilian committee members.

We parade on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm-9.30pm. For more information, contact the Squadron on parade nights on: 01656 670125.

Lindsay Thomas
Secretary Civilian Committee

Music in the Park at Bryngarw

Tap your feet to the Liberty Street Stompers on Sunday, August 12

BRYNGARW House and Country Park is preparing to welcome back the popular free 'Music in the Park' events, which take place every Sunday in August between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Music in the Park has a "fantastic line-up" of acts performing a wide mix of music on the lawn in front of Bryngarw House:

• Sunday, August 5 – Hits from the last four decades with Undercover Brother;

• Sunday, August 12 – Foot-tapping traditional jazz with the Liberty Street Stompers;

• Sunday, August 19 – Mellow classic and recent hits with contemporary acoustic duo New Druids;

• Sunday, August 26 – Gypsy-inspired jazz with Hot Club Gallois.

Entertainers to the event last year, this year entertainers will be encouraging children to make their own music, play exciting games and take part in fun quizzes.

Admission to Music in the Park is free with a car park charge of £2.50. All events are set on the beautiful lawns within the award-winning 113 acres of spectacular parkland which boasts Bridgend County Borough Council's largest picturesque landscape.

Bryngarw House and Country Park is part of the 'One Historic Garden' project linking heritage, gardens and opportunities across south Wales, and is part-funded by the EU's Convergence European Regional Development Fund through Visit Wales and the Welsh Government, and supported by The Valleys Heart and Soul of Wales campaign. Call 01656 729009.

Quiz League posers

HERE are the weekly posers:

1. Who was the Prussian general nicknamed Marshal Forward who assisted Wellington in the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo?

2. Who acted as Cadfael in the television series of that name?

3. Who was the first bowler to take 400 wickets in Test cricket?

4. Which actor's real name is, or was, Michael Shalhoub?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

Answers:
1. Blucher
2. Derek Jacobi
3. Richard Hadlee
4. Omar Sharif

Youngsters join National Youth Arts Wales

THIRTEEN young people from Bridgend have been invited to join groups from National Youth Arts Wales, following a successful audition process for 2012.

Three of the young people applied for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, one joined the National Youth Theatre of Wales and the remaining nine have joined the National Youth Brass Band Wales, National Youth Choir of Wales, National Youth Dance Wales, National Youth Jazz Wales and the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales.

Groups from National Youth Arts Wales have performed at a variety of artistic events.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Competition to perform as part of National Youth Arts Wales was very high this year and a total of 869 young people from across Wales applied to join one or more of the groups.

"Well done to successful applicants Peter Greenwood, Will Mead, Daniel Pugh Bevan, Anwen Dixon, Kamila Godzinska, Rhydian Jenkins, Constance Osgood, Isabelle Rosenberg, Sara Friel, Hanna Thomas, Lucy Noden, Gareth Rodgers and Hefin Miles – I am sure they will all be a credit to the county borough."

For more information visit www.nyaw.co.uk.

AM hails skills on display at the WI County Federation show

Angela Bending, chairman of the show committee, with Suzy Davies AM, Carolyn Davies of Pontyclun, chairman of the Glamorgan Federation of WIs, Esme Wood, committee, and Mary Dennis, committee.

HUNDREDS of people flocked to the annual show staged by the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes at North Cornelly.

WI members and supporters from all over the old county, stretching from Gower to Cardiff, attended the show, which had the theme of *Village Life.*

It attracted 1,500 entries from 108 different WIs across the county

Among those present, was regional AM Suzy Davies, who toured the show. She was welcomed by Carolyn Davies, chairman of the Glamorgan Federation and Angela Bending who is chairman of the show committee.

She said: "There was a wonderful display of flower arrangements, crafts and baking on show.

"I was staggered by the high standard of the work exhibited.

"The imagination of many of the competitors in complying with the remit of each category was fantastic.

"As Shadow Welsh Minister of Culture, I feel that celebrating art, design and traditional crafts shown together in this way promotes an important part of our cultural heritage.

"It's not all Shakespeare and symphonies. It's something where everyone can find a contribution to make and an experience to take."

She also had the chance to speak to Carolyn Davies about the campaigns being run by the WI locally and nationally.

"I have huge respect for the campaigns run by the WI," she said.

"As a farmer's wife myself, I know how relevant things like their campaign for fairer farm gate prices for dairy farmers has been in the past – and is now back in the news again. Theirs is a voice with influence

"They are also campaigning to get better country-of-origin food labelling, so that consumers know exactly where the product comes from.

"The WI is an expert at homing in on issues that are important to ordinary families and then lobbying government in an entirely non-party political way."

Carolyn Davies, chairman of the Glamorgan Federation of WIs, with Suzy Davies AM in front of the craft stand which was coloured in red, white and blue to mark the Diamond Jubilee this year.

Lloyds calls for votes for local organisations

FOUR south Wales organisations, including Llantwit Major Surf Life Saving Club and Llamau, with bases in Barry and Bridgend, are calling for your vote...

The first ever Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund was launched on May 18, to support organisations that inspire, support and unlock the potential of young people across the UK.

They are already working hard to drum up support for their cause by getting as many public votes as possible in order to receive one of two £5,000 awards. The voting will continue until midnight on September 9, with the winners being announced in the following weeks.

Lloyds Banking Group is inviting all residents to show their support for Bullies Out (Cardiff), Llamau, Llantwit Major Surf Life Saving Club and Urban Circle (Newport).

To read more about the shortlisted organisations and how to vote, visit: www.lloydsbankinggroupcommunities.com.

ABOVE: Front seat passenger John Evans needed to be cut free but suffered only minor injuries. Tom Perks, in the rear seat, had a broken pelvis.

LEFT to right: John Evans, Tom Perks, and Mike Nixon.

THREE CRASHES IN EIGHT YEARS, FAMILY JOINS...

Call for safe speed limits on local country roads

A FAMILY (of six) from Marcross are adding their support to campaigners who want a reduction in speed limits in narrow country roads in the Vale – after three of them were involved in crashes involving buses over an eight-year period.

At the moment, there are several roads with no speed limit in the area, and the most controversial is Dimlands Road, between St Donats and Llantwit Major – a narrow, twisting section, with several areas hemmed in with stone walls.

The first family member to suffer was Tina Nixon, and her crash happened eight years ago. She said: "Mine happened on Dimlands Road when a bus came round a corner and I had no choice but to swerve towards the hedge."

On that occasion, her luck was definitely out, because her tyres ran over the remains of an old railing, ripping them to shreds.

Tina's daughter, Anna, had her accident two years ago, again on Dimlands Road. She said she had slowed right down to go round a blind corner, but a bus came round and the two vehicles collided.

The GEM should point out that, over the last eight years, different bus companies have run services along the route.

The latest crash, again on Dimlands Road, occurred on July 12, and left a 17-year-old youth with a broken pelvis.

This incident is still under investigation, but the driver of the car was Tina Nixon's 18-year-old son Mike.

The two vehicles avoided a head-on collision, so the driver and front seat passenger, 18-year-old John Evans, escaped without injury.

However, the rear seat passenger, Tom Perks, had to be cut free by the fire services, suffered a broken pelvis, and will be on crutches for the summer.

He also suffered a heavy blow to the nose, and bled heavily from that.

He told The GEM: "I enjoy surfing and we had plenty of things planned for the holidays, but that has all been wiped out now."

He said that he was still on strong painkillers, because he could not be put in plaster.

Tina said that she had lived in Marcross for 19 years, and had driven in the Vale for all that time, and that her only accident in that time was the one eight years ago.

Earlier this year, in April, The GEM reported on a crash between a VW Polo and a bus.

The driver and front seat passenger in the Polo had to be cut free by emergency services.

Fortunately, although both suffered heavy bruising, they escaped any broken bones.

The injured driver was 17-year-old Joey Coyle, and his mother, Maggie, told The GEM: "This highlights residents' concerns about safety on this road.

"Some years ago, I attended a Vale Council meeting regarding this road and the stupidity of the law that said it was safe for children to walk to school from St Donats to Llantwit Major.

"It amazes me that it has a 60 mph speed limit, yet has blind bends and is walled on both sides in many places – so there is nowhere to escape to!"

Dimlands Road is not a long road and a speed limit of 30mph, or even 20 mph, would not add much time to a journey.

Tina Nixon said: "It just seems to us that these incidents keep happening, and yet nothing is done."

On behalf of the Vale Council, Paul Gay, group engineer highways and traffic, said:

"The council only receives information from the police on a quarterly basis, unless there is a fatality or a serious injury that might result in a fatality.

"In this instance, we have not received any specific information."

The bus involved in the July 12 incident was operated by Watts Coaches.

Carol Watts said that the company could not comment on this case, as the matter was in the hands of the company's insurers.

However, she was adamant that the company would welcome any move to lower the speed limit.

PHILIP IRWIN

Mechanic/blogger Roger is the new vicar at Llangeinor

A LOCAL vicar plans to use the internet to reach out to young people in his new parish.

Rev Roger Pitman who creates websites, writes blogs and tweets in his spare time, was be licensed as priest-in-charge of the parish of Llangeinor and the Garw Valley by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne. this week, following the retirement of Rev David Mortmore.

He comes to the area from Llanharry, where he served as priest-in-charge and part-time chaplain to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital for five years. However, moving to the Garw valley will be something of a home-coming for him as he grew up just on the other side of the mountain, in the Afan valley.

"It's a beautiful area," says Roger, who has already created a Facebook page and website for his new parish, "But I am aware of the challenges people there face.

"Churches and chapels have closed over the years and the sense of Christian community has suffered. Fortunately, the church buildings left are now in good order, so I will be able to focus on growing the congregations and reaching out to the whole community to show how the simple Gospel message interacts in daily life.

Rev Roger Pitman

"A key way for us to do that is by embracing social media. These days, your website says as much about you as your church building. If it's up-to-date, easily accessible, regularly visited and packed with useful information, people are more likely to be interested and keen to return.

"And I think it's very important people find it as easy to interact with the church as they do with everything else in modern life."

Roger will be coming to Llangeinor with his wife, Kim and the couple have three grown-up children and two grandchildren. As well as building websites, Roger is a keen mechanic and rebuilds classic Land Rovers in his spare time.

Bishop David Wilbourne says: "Roger is a very sensitive and sympathetic priest, who knows the Llangeinor and the Garw Valley area well. Friendly and family-orientated, in recent months Roger has helped out in the Cowbridge benefice in addition to his duties at Llanharry, where his pastoral ministry has been deeply appreciated.

"His abilities at social networking, as well as hobbies such as car maintenance and restoration, will enable him to make links with all sectors of the community."

Roger was licensed by Bishop Wilbourne at St Ceinwyr's Church on Tuesday.

Police hunt sex assault suspect

POLICE are appealing for information, following reports of a sexual assault in Sully, which was alleged to have taken place in the early hours of Monday, June 25.

Police say a 22-year-old woman was assaulted by an unknown male at around 4am after they were dropped off by a taxi at Island View Caravan Park in the village.

A spokeswoman said: "Officers are keen to speak to the taxi driver who took the man and woman to the caravan park.

"It is believed the fare originated in Cardiff city centre, possibly in Churchill Way and then went on to Adamsdown, before continuing to Sully.

"The male suspect is thought to have spoken with a foreign accent – possibly Italian."

Anyone with information is urged to contact Barry CID on 01446 731 606. or Crimestoppers (free) on 0800 555 111.

CARNIVAL ORGANISERS DELIGHTED WITH SUCCESS OF PORTHCAWL'S EXTRAVAGANZA

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

AS promised in last week's GEM, we are delighted to publish more pictures from Porthcawl's Carnival.

Organised as usual by the Porthcawl Buckaneers, the carnival procession made its way through the town before arriving at Porthcawl RFC's ground on South Road for an afternoon of fun in the sun!

ABOVE: PC Richard Woozley on 'Samson' and PC Lisa Brown on 'Nesbitt' were great favourites.

ABOVE: RNLI honorary crew members.

ABOVE: Ian Cole and the Coastguard team.

ALL THE FUN OF THE CARNIVAL – CATCHING THE FUN AND THE FACES OF A LOCAL EVENT

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN
www.randelljohnphotography.com
01656 662324

THERE were carnival floats, fairground rides, stalls, entertainment, and all styles of fancy dress and face painting on show during Porthcawl Carnival.

However, local photographer Randell John focused the faces of performers and revellers, as everyone enjoyed their day in the sun!

The town council's Dr Who float. Has the Doctor regenerated again?

Nicole 'delighted' with team mate's silver in Olympic race

THE dream of defending her Olympic cycling road race gold medal slipped away from Nicole Cooke last Sunday – but she had the consolation of being part of a GB team that could celebrate the silver taken by Lizzie Armitstead.

It rained in Beijing when the Wick girl took that gold medal, and it rained again this time, but it turned out to be a very different race.

Speaking after the race, her father, Tony Cooke, said: "It's really hard to win any road race when the best racers in the world are there – so defending her title was always going to be difficult."

The situation had changed too. Four years ago Nicole was the team leader, and GB's only realistic shot at gold.

This year, she was joint leader, along with Armitstead, and once the 23-year-old Yorkshire girl joined a four-woman break, Nicole and team mate Emma Pooley's job was to stay with the chasing pack – but do nothing to help.

Talking immediately after the race, Nicole said that it was ironic that the men's great hope, Mark Cavendish, had complained bitterly that other teams had not helped Great Britain when they were trying to chase a break away group.

Nicole said: "I guess Emma and I were doing just what the men complained about."

However, Tony Cooke felt that the four-woman break was not going to be conclusive,

by PHILIP IRWIN

and he had mapped out a scenario that would have seen Nicole back in with a real chance at the end.

The group was Marianne Vos, the pre-race favourite, Lizzie Armitstead, American Shelley Olds and Russia's Olga Zabelinskaya.

In Tony's view, the crucial moment came when Shelley Olds punctured, cutting it to a group of three!

He explained: "I think the mix of that group of four was wrong. The Russian would have known that the other three were better than her, and so would have little incentive to work hard.

"Shelley Olds was the best sprinter. She had beaten Vos two or three times this year, so she would not have been inclined to blunt her speed by working hard either.

"Vos and Armistead would have had to do all the work, and it is likely that the chasing group would have caught them, maybe 5 km from the finish.

"That would have meant that Nicole, and Emma Pooley, would have been fresh, having done no work in the chasing group, so Nicole could have done what Vinokourov did in the main race – surprise everyone with a long ride for home."

What changed of course, was that Olds had a puncture.

Tony Cooke explained: "The three looked at each other and decided that if they all worked hard, they were guaranteed a medal – it was just a question of which one."

The trio did just that, taking turns on the front and driving hard to maintain their lead. Even to the untrained eye, it was obvious that Zabelinskayay was hanging by her fingernails, so the finish was always going to be a sprint between Vos and Armitstead.

The chasing main group finished only 25 seconds behind, so it could have been different if Olds had not had that puncture.

The GEM first interviewed Nicole Cooke eight years ago when she was 21, embarking on her professional cycling career.

She was used to winning, and clearly had enormous self belief, but without a trace of arrogance. Success followed success but her bad luck was to be a star in a sport that was hardly covered at all on TV.

When cycling did find itself on TV, it was in the Velodrome, and Sir Chris Hoy, Victoria Pendleton and Bradley Wiggins became the well-known faces.

Even when Team Sky decided to get involved with road racing, they concentrated on men's cycling.

Nicole's win in Beijing in 2008 was a massive triumph, and it gave her a short, sharp spot in the public eye, but after that it was back to competing in events around the world, all largely ignored by TV and the UK media.

Considering that Bradley Wiggins is in the form of his life at the age of 32, the 29-year-old from Wick has plenty to aim at in the future.

Tony Cooke said: "When the Olympics are over, it will be a time for reflection. Nicole has been a professional cyclist for 10 years now."

As The GEM went to press, Nicole's team-mates, Armitstead and Pooley, were competing for gold again, this time in the women's time trial.

They are strong contenders, but borderline as far as winning a medal goes.

Straight after the women, the men's time trial took place. On this subject, Tony Cooke was making a firm prediction.

He said: "I think Bradley Wiggins is in such good form he is a dead cert for the gold medal.

He was dead right. Sir Brad (it's only a matter of time!) smashed the field and came home a comprehensive winner, with team mate Chris Froome taking the bronze.

Going back to Tony Cooke's prediction, he said:: "It will be only the second gold medal Great Britain has ever won on the roads."

And everyone in Wales should know who took the first.

ABOVE: The GEM interviewed the 21-year-old Nicole Cooke back in 2004 at her home in Wick. It would be nice to say we 'talent spotted' her, but in truth she was already a multi-world champion!

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Kieran's miraculous recovery leaves family and doctors stunned

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

ON Father's Day, June 17, Colwinston resident Kieran Smith was involved in a road collision that left him in a coma with severe head injuries.

Coming round after six days, he spent another day in the intensive care unit (ICU) at the University Hospital Wales of Cardiff, before being moved to the high dependency neuro ward (HDNW). Just five days later, he moved to a less intensive ward, and within three weeks,he was out of hospital.

Yet the Cowbridge Comprehensive School sixth former (17) didn't just have his head injuries to contend with, as he told The GEM: "I remember the antibiotics in my arm twice a day, because I caught MRSA in the hospital."

While Kieran can't remember anything from the day of the accident, involving a car at Colwinston, to around 10 or 11 days afterwards, his mother, Colleen Kennard-Smith, has vivid memories of his time in hospital.

She told The GEM: "They often give you no hope because they can't say which way it's going to go. All they could say was that he was very critically ill.

"Because he doesn't remember a lot of the difficult bit, it's hard to get him to understand how serious it was.

"He went in on the Sunday, and on Monday and Tuesday there were a couple of times when we were told it could have gone either way.

"It then got a little easier because you knew he was going to come out. But you didn't know quite what he was going to be like."

Kieran had completed his AS Levels by the time of the accident, and now school has finished for the year, he is just trying to get on with his summer just like any other teenager.

He said: "I played golf yesterday (Sunday) for the first time since the accident. The first nine holes really didn't go well. But in the second nine holes I was only one over, so I was happy about that.

"It hasn't affected my life but I think it's affected me learning to drive. I had driving lessons for my birthday and was waiting until after exams to do it. But then this happened, so I'm going to have to wait a bit longer."

Kieran's younger sister, Sian (13), is also in Cowbridge Comprehensive and found it difficult to go on as normal.

She told The GEM: "People kept asking me what had happened. It was hard because he's my big brother and we're unbelievably close. It was so hard being around at that time, because all I could think about was him."

Now Kieran is home, the family are keen to thank all those who offered their support.

Colleen said: "If it wasn't for the Air Ambulance (who were called to the scene and rushed him to hospital) Kieran wouldn't be here today. We also want to say thank you to the nurses in ICU and the HDNW because they were absolutely great, just so reassuring.

"I would also like to thank my cousin Judith Robertson, and her family. They were quite a rock as well.

"The school were also brilliant. But my friends Andrea and Steve Stock and their son Lloyd, they were always seeing if I wanted something."

And Kieran is now focussing solely on his future, adding: "I just want to get back to normal. Everyone's talking about it and I've completely forgotten about it. I just want to get back to school and get the grades that I need to get to Leicester University.

"It's made me certain that I want to go in to medicine. It's made me more focussed on things and what I need to get there. How the medical staff treated me in hospital, if I can contribute to that then that will be the best thing I can do. Eventually, I want to work in Great Ormond Street Hospital."

A police spokesperson said: "South Wales Police continue to investigate a road traffic collision that occurred on the A48 near Colwinston at approximately 2:20pm on Sunday, June 17."

ABOVE: Kieran Smith (17) is back home with sister Sian (13) and family after a miraculous recovery in hospital.

SEARCH IS ON FOR YOUNG INVENTORS

THE search is on for Britain's next young thinkers, inventors and innovators to put forward their ideas in the country's most prestigious creative contest – the National Science and Engineering Competition.

Young people in Bridgend are being challenged to submit their big ideas and represent rising talent in the region for the chance to compete for top prizes and international experiences worth over £50,000.

11-18-year-olds across Bridgend are being urged to take up this exciting challenge. To qualify, youngsters need to come up with a novel idea, invention, concept or solution to a problem.

Entries can be uploaded online at: www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/nsec through a written submission, or by producing a short film – get those smartphones at the ready.

Entrants have until October 31 to take part, and those with the best projects could see themselves representing Bridgend at the finals of the National Science and Engineering Competition at The Big Bang Fair at London ExCeL in March 2013.

There, Britain's bright young sparks will get to showcase their big ideas to more than 60,000 visitors and come face to face with top celebrity judges in a Dragons' Den style competition process.

Kate Bellingham, TV presenter and celebrity judge, says: "We all know science and maths goes on in schools. But you only need to look around at the technology and engineering in our everyday lives to get inspiration for projects you could do outside of school.

"Who knows, by being creative this summer, youngsters in Bridgend could win themselves a prize and even come up with an invention or innovation that can change people's lives."

Berry's pining for new home

ABOVE: Berry needs a good home.

"I'M Berry, one of the many kittens cared for at Bridgend Adoption Centre.

"I am only 11 weeks old and was found living outside with my three brothers and sisters.

"I was placed into a foster home for a few weeks to help me adapt to a home life. Now I'm here, ready and waiting for a permanent, loving home."

• Contact Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ on 01656 726 621, email bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk.

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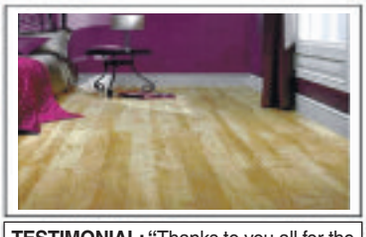
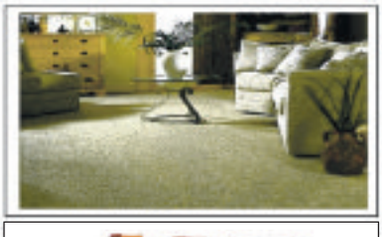

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Longserving Best Kept Village chief Basil looks back as he steps down

AT the recent annual dinner for the Best Kept Village (BKV) in the Vale of Glamorgan, Basil and Eileen Watkins were invited as honoured guests.

Commander John Curteis, the president, praised the work carried out by Basil, who had been chairman for 15 years, and also Eileen – for her tremendous support.

In response, Basil said it was like being on the TVprogramme, *Myself looking Backwards.*

He recalled: "In 1964 we moved into Pendoylan, and it wasn't long before we were invited to help prepare the village for the BKV competition.

"We dutifully turned up with our two young sons, armed with brushes, spades, hoes, etc, to be allocated our tasks.

"The enthusiasm shown by all the working party was tremendous, and after the evening's work was completed, we were invited to attend the committee meeting in the Red Lion.

"The boys stayed in the car. They still chide us that they were left with just a bottle of pop and a bag of crisps! I pointed out they were far better looked after than by our Prime Minister who forgot to pick up his child in the car!

"Actually, it wasn't a committee meeting, but a pleasant gathering of other workers; and within a month, we met virtually everyone in the community."

This enthusiasm continued, until two years later, they won the competition for the first time.

On the day of the presentation, the village green was laid out with bunting and trestle table laden with food. Since then, They have since won many times.

There have been choirs, police dog displays and similar entertainment. Perhaps, the most notable was when the village won the BKV in Wales, and noted broadcaster Wynford Vaughan Thomas, came to unveil the plaque.

"In due course, I was elected to the management committee, and 15 years ago was appointed chairman. Over time, there have been several innovations, including the special feature event and the children's competition.

"I was honoured to be invited to the headquarters of Calor Gas, to join the committee planning the village of the year competition in Wales.

This was a much more comprehensive contest, involving six different aspects, such as provisions for youth and the elderly, community activities, business ventures, environment award, and Prince Charles chose to visit the village, as this award was close to his heart.

"It was a tremendous honour to be asked by the Lord Lieutenant to organise this event. The Prince and Duchess of Cornwall, arrived by helicopter opposite the school, and children regaled them at a concert."

Basil said he has many happy memories of his time, at the helm, particularly the way many communities have been brought closer together.

Once when there was no meeting place in the area, the inhabitants gathered in each other's houses and met people they had not previously known before.

"That surely exhibits 'community spirit"... He urged those who are now picking up the baton, to ensure this continues.

Basil presented a handsome bound photograph album, to be competed for by winners of the special feature awards, which will contain their full entry details, in order to inpire future entrants.

ABOVE: Basil and Eileen with the chief judge Roger Thomas.
PHOTO BY HEATHER MARCH

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Councillors become posties – to deliver a jobs message

BRIDGEND town councillors are going out on to the streets – in an attempt to make young people and their families aware of a new scheme designed to improve their job prospects.

They have begun door-to-door deliveries of 7,000 specially-produced leaflets giving details of a new scheme that could set young people on the road to a full-time job.

A town council spokeswoman told The GEM: "Councillors were horrified earlier this year when unemployment among 16 to 24-year-olds topped the one million mark. They resolved to do something about it."

The leaflet, which will reach every home in Morfa, Oldcastle and Newcastle wards, outlines a new Welsh Government scheme entitled Jobs Growth Wales.

This offers young people the chance to grab some valuable paid work experience lasting at least six months. For some, it could lead to the offer of full-time employment. Others may find that the experience they can add to their CV prepares them for an apprenticeship or a job with another employer.

Full contact details for the scheme, operated by Careers Wales, can be found on the leaflet.

The chair of the council's youth unemployment panel, Coun Peter Foley, said: "We are putting the information directly in the hands of young people, their parents and grandparents.

"No other town council in the UK has elected postmen and women – as far as I am aware."

Allotment offer to community group

BRIDGEND County Allotment Association has a plot available on its allotments in Chorleywood Close, Brackla, for the use of a local community/disability group.

The plot is suitable for the use of two-four people. The site has ample parking, although there are no toilet facilities.

There are no onerous rules, only that the allotment is kept in good condition, although you will be asked to sign a tenancy agreement.

Contact L Williams on 01656 735988 if interested.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Bridgend honours some 'Local Heroes' at awards ceremony

THE Heronston Hotel played host to the Bridge FM Local Hero Awards on Friday, July 27, and the audience were treated to a heart-warming evening where stories of true courage, bravery, caring and selfless devotion left many feeling extremely humbled.

The event, sponsored by Halo Leisure, was a reassuring demonstration of the true generosity and kindness that human nature possesses.

A spokesperson for Bridge FM said: "This is the eighth time we have staged this event in the Bridgend area and year after year we see this amazing community spirit come to the fore.

"It was a hugely difficult task to decide who the winners would be because the quality of deserving entries was exceptional. Each and every one of them is truly a local hero."

WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

*Outstanding Contribution to the Community, sponsored by BAVO – **Les Jones**.*

*Outstanding Contribution to Sport, sponsored by Radio Cabs – **Clive Holmes**.*

*Outstanding Young Achiever, sponsored by HMP and YOI Parc – **Lillie-eve Cronin**.*

*Outstanding Contribution to Animal Welfare, sponsored by Pink Butterfly Brides – **Jan Brady**.*

*Outstanding Adult Achiever, sponsored by Bridgend College – **Sammy-jo Atkins**.*

*Dad of the Year, sponsored by The Green Acre Motel and Public House, North Cornelly – **Kevin Meredith**.*

*Mum of the Year, sponsored by David Wilson Homes – **Sian Evans**.*

*Child of Courage, sponsored by Riverside Hardware – **Lexi Hailstone**.*

*Carer of the Year, sponsored by Bridgend Foster Care – **Helen Morgan**.*

*Outstanding Contribution to Charity, sponsored by LINK Scaffolding and Netting – **Hannah Jarrett**.*

*Outstanding Bravery Award, sponsored by Clay Shaw Thomas – **Lloyd Griffiths, Scott Govan, Ollie Lewis and Rory Thomas**.*

*Green Award, sponsored by ACD Skip Hire and Recycling – **Bridgend County Recycling Service**.*

*The Gold Award, presented by Halo Leisure – **Betws Primary School**.*

Accident scene collection for the Air Ambulance

On Friday, July 20, Wales Air Ambulance responded to a call-out to attend a young man who had been injured in a road traffic collision on the M4 near Margam.

Paramedics began treatment at the scene, before taking the patient to University Hospital Wales for further medical attention.

As the helicopter was leaving, a member of the public approached the aircraft to give the paramedics donations that had been collected from motorists on scene.

"The donation came to around £50, although in the race to get the patient to hospital, the man's details were not taken," a spokesman said.

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Croeso i'r Eisteddfod!
Vale proudly welcomes Wales' premier festival

Hywel Edwards, the organiser of the National Eisteddfod, is a calming presence as preparations continue for Wales' premier cultural event.

by TIM CHAPMAN

PREPARE to be amazed! In just a few short weeks, the National Eisteddfod 'pavilioned village' has been recreated at its new home for 2012 at Llandow and is ready to provide hundreds of attractions for thousands of visitors from this Saturday, August 4.

As The GEM was going to press, last-minute preparations were under way on the hugely impressive site.

The organiser Hywel Edwards said that people would be thrilled by the scale of the National Eisteddfod and what was on offer.

"It's only when visitors arrive that they realise just how big it all is. In total, the site covers around 140 acres – the area for the pavilions is 33 acres, the youth village is 15 acres, and car parks and caravan parks account for 45 acres each.

"The average number of visitors in recent years has been 150,000 people. Sometimes it can get up to 160,000 people; another year, it might be nearer 140,000."

One of the organisers' main considerations in choosing a site it to make sure it is as accessible as possible for a good slice of the population.

"We like somewhere people can travel to within an hour and this year takes in areas like Cardiff, Swansea and Newport."

The festival provides a huge range of attractions – music, dance, visual arts, theatrical and vocal performances and lots of family activities.

Official competitions and cultural ceremonies are held at the 'Maes', and the Pink Pavilion, a stylish 2,500 seat arena, is its focal point.

Hywel emphasised that this year the seating in the Pink Pavilion has been widened in front of the stage, with an almost semi-circular effect, so everyone gets the best possible view.

"I particularly look forward to the concerts and the ceremonies.

"But there is so much to see – the National Eisteddfod is the largest cultural event of its kind in Europe."

There will be more than 300 stalls and trade stands, the largest visual arts exhibition in Wales, a science and technology pavilion which children can "lose themselves in for the day", and much, much more.

Hywel, who has been organising this Welsh celebration since 1993, exudes an aura of calm despite the frenetic activity going on around him.

He has immense admiration for the workers who make the whole festival a reality.

"They deserve a lot of praise, sometimes working from seven in the morning until seven at night.

"If they are needed, they'll even work through the night!"

The only time he and his fellow organisers had serious doubts about whether 'the show would go on' was when it was held in Mold in 2007.

"The weather was terrible and we had doubts if it should go ahead, but in the end it did."

Hywel said people should not be deterred by the rain, pointing out that once on site the entertainments and attractions are in pavilions and marquees.

Many people book their holidays to coincide with the National Eisteddfod and return year after year, but Hywel had a message for people who had not attended before (also emphasising that there are free 'simultaneous translation' facilities available for people who don't speak Welsh):

"If you haven't been before, don't be afraid – come and see what the Eisteddfod is all about and really enjoy it – and bring a little sun with you!"

Gareth, Rachael, Einir and Trystan, of Cyw fame.

Cyw characters steal the show

AT 5pm on Sunday, August 5, a full capacity crowd is expected at the Eisteddfod's literary pavilion, as some of the nation's most familiar faces are welcomed to the stage.

Eisteddfod Cyw will feature Sali Mali, Jac y Jwc, Oli Old, Tigi, Huwi Stomp and rapper Dona Direidi.

"Eisteddfod Cyw is an open competition and the characters can choose what to perform. We look forward to witnessing world-class performances – whether it's singing, dancing, reciting or an instrumental performance – and I ask the audience to show fairness for each competitor," says Einir Dafydd, Cyw presenter, who will be joined at the event by co-presenter Trystan Morris.

Presiding on the stage will be Cyw presenters Rachael Solomon and Gareth Delve and several more characters from favourite shows will show their support.

Jac y Jwc, of Pentre Bach, says: "I'm looking forward to winning the Eisteddfod. I've never won anything before."

But Dona Direidi, of Dre Be Nei Di, is confident that her excellent rapping will steal the show. "It's me, Dona Direidi, who's going to win the day. I'm so good at rapping, you'll all be clapping!"

Eisteddfod Cyw is a free event and you do not need a ticket.

'Iolo' trail launched in time for Eisteddfod

A NEW walking trail exploring the life of Iolo Morganwg was launched at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge this week.

The launch was timed to coincide with the arrival of the National Eisteddfod in the Vale.

Locals and visitors gathered in the shadow of a 12-foot sculpture of Edward Williams, born near Llancarfan, but better known by his bardic name, Iolo Morganwg.

Among the speakers were Dr Prys Morgan and Professor Geraint E Jenkins, who also celebrated the launch of his new book on Iolo's life: 'Bard of Liberty: the Political Radicalism of Iolo Morganwg'.

The 6.5-mile Iolo Morganwg Trail has been funded by Creative Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative. It celebrates the life of one of the area's most colourful characters while guiding visitors around the heritage sites in the Vale.

Iolo Morganwg (1747-1846) is renowned for his leading role in the 18th century cultural renaissance of Wales. His creation, the Gorsedd of the Bards of the Island of Britain, was in essence the first Welsh national cultural institution. It was designed to raise the profile of the Welsh culture and language and foster a sense of pride.

Coun Lis Burnett of the Vale Council said: "Iolo Morganwg was the Vale's greatest advocate, referring to the area as 'Britain's Paradise'. It is fitting that we celebrate one of our most famous sons as we welcome the National Eisteddfod."

Branwen Dickson of Creative Rural Communities, added: "The local interest in Iolo during the course of developing the trail has been fantastic.

"We're particularly grateful to Professor Geraint E Jenkins, who volunteered his time to provide the historical content for the trail booklet."

To mark the launch of the trail a guided walk will take place on Monday, August 6 at 11am, starting at Cowbridge Walled Garden. The walk will be led by local ramblers and accompanied by Dr Cathryn Charnell-White.

The trail booklets are free to pick up at the Vale Council stand at the Eisteddfod (A24 and A25) and at sites in the Vale including Costa, The Bear Hotel on Cowbridge High Street, the Bush Inn in St Hilary, The Blue Anchor in East Aberthaw and St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major. It is also available online at: www.visitthevale.com.

WHAT'S ON
in brief

Open mic

BOYD CLACK will be at Barry Arts Festival this evening (Thursday, August 2) to perform for the first half of the open mic night at Masonic Hall, Barry, from 7pm.

Walk Ten for Marie Curie

MARIE Curie Cancer Care holds its Walk Ten at Margam Country Park on Saturday (August 4) with 400 walker expected to take part.

There will be entertainment, fireworks and a hog roast, and a 10km twilight walk around the park.

'Hounds for Pounds'

PAMPERED pets are being put through their final paces for the Ty Hafan 'Hounds for Pounds' sponsored dog walk around the Margam Country Park (followed by competitions and demonstrations) on August 5, from 11am.

Register at: www.tyhafan.org/hounds or contact 02920 672060.

Garden party

ON Saturday afternoon, August 11, Trinity Church, Stanwell Road, Penarth is holding a grand garden party and bake sale.

Scones, jam and cream tea, £1.50. There will also be a guess the weight of the cake competition and a raffle. Funds raised will be used for Trinity's good works in the community.

GWYBODAETH I YMWELWYR ANABL
Information for disabled visitors

Mae croeso i bawb yn yr Eisteddfod yn Llandw eleni. Os ydych yn anabl, gobeithio y bydd y cyngor isod yn eich helpu i gael ymweliad wrth eich bodd.

Dylai ymwelwyr anabl ddilyn yr arwyddion ar gyfer parcio anabl, sy'n arwain i faes parcio'r dwyrain o bob cyfeiriad. Dim ond un fynedfa sydd i'r Maes eleni ac mae'r maes parcio anabl wedi'i leoli'n agos at y fynedfa hon.

Yn y Ganolfan Groeso, mae'r ffenestri yn isel, sydd yn addas i bobl mewn cadeiriau olwyn. Yma hefyd mae sustem "loop" er mwyn cynnig cymorth i bobl sydd yn gwisgo teclyn clywed, a bydd hyn yn eich helpu wrth brynu tocynnau. Cofiwch y gallwch hefyd archebu tocynnau dros y we – www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Mae cwmni 'Byw Bywyd' gyda ni eto eleni, a lleolir eu stondin wrth ymyl y Ganolfan Groeso, yn gyfleus iawn ar gyfer y brif fynedfa. Mae'r cwmni'n rhentu cadeiriau olwyn, a sgwteri am £10.00 y dydd. Er mwyn sicrhau darpariaeth, byddai'n syniad i chi archebu ymlaen llaw - rhif ffôn 01286 830 101, neu llenwch y ffurflen archebu ar ein gwefan. Dyma lle mae'r tywyswyr hefyd, sydd yn gwisgo crys "T" coch, gyda'r geiriau "YMA I HELPU". Mae'r tywyswyr yn gallu cynnig gwybodaeth am yr hyn sydd i'w gynnig ar y Maes, a hynny mewn sawl iaith.

Mae stiwardiaid (sydd hefyd ymhob un o adeiladau'r Eisteddfod) yno i gynnig cymorth ymarferol. Maent yn hawdd i'w hadnabod, yn gwisgo siacedi gwelededd uchel gwyrdd, coch, neu las. Ewch atynt gydag unrhyw broblem ymarferol, a byddent yn barod i'ch helpu, neu yn trefnu i rywun arall eich cynorthwyo.

Ymhob bloc o doiledau, mae un sydd wedi addasu ar gyfer bobl anabl, gyda ramp yn arwain atynt, ac yn y ddau brif floc o doiledau, mae toiled anghenion arbennig (high dependency). Mae clo ar y toiledau hyn sydd yn gweithio gyda goriad 'RADAR'. Os byddwch angen defnyddio'r rhain, a heb y goriad pwrpasol, ewch i stondin MENCAP, y Ganolfan Groeso neu Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod.

Mae ramp i fod i bob adeilad ar y maes. Os fyddwch yn cael trafferth i gael mynediad i unrhyw adeilad, rhowch wybod i swyddfa'r Eisteddfod ar unwaith. Darperir bws mini (wedi'i addasu ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau) gyda gyrrwr cymwys a thrwyddedig i fynd o amgylch y Maes trwy'r dydd. Gellir defyddio'r bws yma i deithio o fewn y Maes yn rhad ac am ddim.

Yn y Pafiliwn, neilltuir lle arbennig ar gyfer cadeiriau olwyn, a sedd gerllaw i dywyswyr. Gofynnir i chi archebu'r rhain ymlaen llaw, er mwyn sicrhau eich lle. Mae sustem "infra-red", sydd yn galluogi pobl gyda theclyn clust i wrando ar yr hyn sydd yn mynd ymlaen ar y llwyfan. Darperir sustem 'loop' ar gyfer pobl sydd â theclyn clust yn y Babell Lên yn ogystal.

Am ragor o fanylion neu os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, ffoniwch 0845 4090 900 neu ewch i'r wefan,www.eisteddfod.org.uk"www.eisteddfod.org.uk

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Disabled drivers should follow the signs for disabled parking, which will lead you to the east car park from all directions. There is only one entrance to the Maes this year, and the disabled parking is nearby.

Windows are low in the Welcome Pavilion, and are suitable for wheelchair users. You can also buy your tickets online at *www.eisteddfod.org.uk"www.eisteddfod.org.uk.*

Living Life (Byw Bywyd) next to the Welcome Pavilion,.hires out wheelchairs and scooters for £10. per day, although you are advised to book ahead by ringing 01286 830 101, or complete order form on website.

Watch out for trained guides wearing red T-Shirts with the words 'HERE TO HELP' who can offer practical assistance. They wear green, red or blue high visibility jackets.

Every block of toilets has one adapted for people with disabilities A mini bus is provided (adapted for people with disabilities) The 'Infra-red' system enables people with hearing aids to listen to what's on the stage.

For more information, call 0845 4090 900 or contact www.eisteddfod.org.uk"www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

The summer comes to Barry Island, and so do the crowds!

Photographs by
ANDY WICKS

IT TOOK a long time but, eventually, blue skies and bright sunshine arrived – just like the Seventh Cavalry riding to the rescue!

Local traders at Barry Island had gritted their teeth so far this year as the rain fell and the stormy winds blew, but the last two weekends put smiles back on the faces of ice cream salesmen and cafe owners.

Overcoats and jumpers were swopped for shorts and T-shirts as everyone rushed out to ditch the fake tan and try for the genuine article.

As is clear from the photographs, people were keen to get out and swim in the sea, as well as posing for our photographer!

IN BUSINESS...

Who dunnit in the Vale?

SUMMER has arrived at last, and whether you are heading to some exotic destination, or simply enjoying some time off, why not relax with a crime novel written by a local author, Wonny Lea?

Introducing local author
WONNY LEA
(alias Yvonne Peters)
You can enjoy the escapades of local, fictional character, DCI Martin Phelps of Llantwit Major, courtesy of the under-mentioned thrillers
KILLING BY COLOURS
JACK-KNIFED
THE COOPERS FIELD MURDER
Set in Cardiff and the Vale, the familiar settings add to the appeal of the unravelling plots.
The above are all available as ebooks from Amazon, Booktango and Barnes & Noble.
For more details and direct links:
www.johnandyvonne.com
www.amazon.com/author/wonnylea

The main character, DCI Martin Phelps, lives in Llantwit Major and he and his team work from Cardiff Bay.

Some of the settings will be familiar – although maybe not as scenes of murder!

The author chose Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan as the focal point for the series and hopes you will enjoy reading about areas we all know and love.

For more details, and direct links, check out www.johnandyvonne.com

Expert legal advice can help secure your future

MANY people are not aware that even if you live in your partner's home (which is in their sole name) for many years, you may not have a right to the house if they died.

The law of property ownership and intestacy (where there is no will) is complicated and you should seek legal advice to make sure that your financial position is secure in the event of a breakdown of relationship or on death.

For advice on problems such as this, contact the family law team at Glamorgan Law – Susan Baker/Adrian Larby on 01446 771742.

GW glamorganlaw
Glamorgan Law
Incorporating Larby Williams with Gwyn & Gwyn and Beech & Co lawyers.
Richard Beech
Pamela Haines
Adrian Larby
Telephone: 01446 771 742
E-Mail: info@glamorganlaw.co.uk
The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EE
www.glamlaw.co.uk
Glamorgan Law LLP is authorised and regulated by the S.R.A. (537490)

Author Eli launches book

LOCAL author Eli Keen is holding a book signing event for *A Book About Us*, at Living Coffee in Cowbridge this Friday, August 3 from 10am to 5pm.

A Book About Us invites readers on an adventure across the United Kingdom. It is a collection of four stories told by British children: Rhys from Wales, Sheena from Northern Ireland, Stuart from Scotland, and Vicki from England.

Combined with interesting trivia and some delightful images, the stories offer a glimpse into the children's home lives, sharing their hopes and dreams, and their own views of living in their respective countries.

A school counsellor, teacher and workshop leader, Eli explained: "The book provides the opportunity to learn more about ourselves, the relationship we have with each other, and about the beautiful planet we share and care for."

For this purpose *A Book About Us* has been designed to allow readers to write their own stories within the pages.

The book inspires children and young people to learn about each other, and think about where they come from and where they fit into the world.

One young reader, Leah B, commented: "It's a book that is full of life!"

For more information on this book, visit www.XlibrisPublishing.co.uk or contact Eli Keen directly via her website: www.livingtalks.com, or call 01446 678 762 – 07833 493 887

Meet local author
Eli Keen
for *promotional special offer* at book signings:
Friday 3rd August 10-5pm
Living Coffee, Cowbridge.
Saturday 11th August 10-5pm
Caffi Nia, Cowbridge.
Thursday 16th August 10-4pm
7+ Children's Workshop,
Cowbridge Library.
www.XlibrisPublishing.co.uk or contact Eli Keen directly via her websites ***www.livingtalks.com***
or call 01446 678 762 - 07833 493 887

Out and About with The GEM

Church concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir is performing in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, tomorrow (August 3) at 7.30pm. For tickets, call 01446 790132 or 07948 485325.

Toys and trains

THE first ever Toy and Train sale at Barry Island Station is taking place on Sunday, August 5, by permission of John Buxton of Barry Tourist Railway (trains will also be operating throughout the event).

The actual platform, covered by a canopy, will be the location of many dealers from all over Wales and England, and as well as a huge variety of toys and trains, old and new, a few dealers will be offering railwayana.

Some stalls will also be located within the actual station building where a cafe will be operating throughout the day. The show runs from 10.30am-4pm.

It is possible to arrive at the fair by rail. There is limited on-street car parking, but there is a large car park close to the station.

Telephone 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

FoE meeting

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale FoE will be at 7.30pm on August 7 in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street.

Members have accepted an invitation from FoE Cymru, to be on their stall at the National Eisteddfod in Llandow next week.

Having for many years held their meetings in the Castle Hotel, Barry and Vale FoE will also be discussing how they can assist the campaign to keep the public house open as a community facility.

Health event

THE Welsh Ambulance Service, British Deaf Association and Deaf Access Cymru, are hosting a free health information event for those who are deaf and hard of hearing on August 30, between 10am-4pm at Bethel Baptist Church Centre, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun.

For more information, contact alison.johnstone@wales.nhs.uk or call 01792 776252, ext. 5437.

Voices heard again in the Park

Pukka Potential are appearing on Saturday.

LOVERS of choirs should make the trip to Cadoxton this Saturday and Sunday (August 4-5) as the fabulous 'Voices in the Park' concert returns to Victoria Park for the second year.

This year, *Phantom of the Opera* star, Peter Karrie, appears live on Sunday afternoon.

Supporting Peter will be a fine line-up of our very own choirs, singers and artists. Starting on Saturday afternoon will be Superstars in the Making – Music and Dance Academy.

Saturday is all about choral music and group singing, with the fabulous kids of Pukka Potential and Pukka Perfection performing pop songs and music from all your favourite shows.

Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir and the Voices in the Park Choir will also be appearing to sing traditional and modern songs.

Sunday is packed with great solo singers, but begins with a set from local duo, Indigo Ribbon.

Then there is a tribute to Freddie Mercury, with favourite Queen hits, before a singer from last year's Voices, the superb Tim Reynolds, performs hits made famous by Michael Buble' and other singing legends.

Then Suzanne Jayne takes to the stage as Whitney Houston in a tribute to the well-loved diva of pop.

West End star, Peter Karrie, who tops the bill, has performed in major productions worldwide and is the biggest star to appear at Victoria Park.

Park Manager Jon Greatrex said: "I am so glad to have 'Voices' back in Victoria Park, and to welcome Peter Karrie and the other artists, to what I am sure will be a fantastic weekend.

"I would especially like to thank Dorothy Connell and Sarah and Duncan Creasey for all their hard work bringing this together.

"I hope everyone will come along, bring a picnic, and have a lovely couple of afternoons."

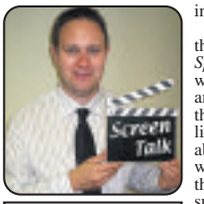
The concert starts at 1pm each day and admission is free.

As well as the music, there will be bouncy castles, funfair stalls and a craft area, refreshments, ice creams, and tea and cake on sale in the 'Room in the Park'.

Victoria Park is one of the Vale's finest parks, and recently received another Green Flag award; marking four years as the only Green Flag award-winning park in Barry.

Further details on 07809 551465, or: jgreatrex@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. **JG**

Who needs sunshine when you can enjoy a summer of cinema?



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

NOW that the summer holidays are here, it's a sure-fire bet that the good weather we've been having lately will give way to torrential rain – it's just the way these things work.

However, should such rainy weather occur, the one place where you can be sure of staying dry is the cinema.

Certainly, taking a family out for a night (or day) at a multiplex isn't a cheap option, but with most cinemas running discounts on a Tuesday, and with the Orange Wednesday offer available on (you guessed it) Wednesdays, those trips to the movies needn't be as expensive.

If you find yourself heading that way, there's plenty on offer for children of all ages.

With some films moving early to mark themselves out in the rush for their share of the summer box office, the likes of *Ice Age 4: Continental Drift* (U), which sees the fabled characters have to cope with continents splitting apart and trying to reunite with their families, and *The Lorax* (U), based on Dr Seuss' story of a boy determined to bring trees back to a barren landscape, are already occupying cinema screens, with both films coming in eye-popping 3D, which stands out far better than in live-action.

One film that breaks that rule is *The Amazing Spider-Man* (12A), which sees Peter Parker and his alter-ego battle the evil Lizard. With a lighter tone, this is suitable for most youngsters who are still requiring their dose of spandex superheroes.

For older children, Chris Nolan's final outing in charge of the Batman franchise, *The Dark Knight Rises* (12A) is also well worth catching. The film is wonderfully epic with an engaging story to support it, and in a summer of superheroes, is arguably the finest outing of all.

August 3 sees Pixar release their latest film, *Brave* (PG), which sees a headstrong princess unleash all manner of trouble when she is afflicted by a curse. Given Pixar's success rate, this should certainly be an enjoyable film, again coming in 3D.

The same date sees *Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Dog Days* (U) released, where the hapless Greg has to endure the summer holiday from hell where anything and everything goes wrong for him.

Youngsters with a love of dance could do worse than check out *Step Up 4* (PG) on August 10, which promises to be an eye-popping spectacle of some of the hottest dancing around, as dancers fight to keep a neighbourhood from being redeveloped.

Those who fancy a good dose of slapstick humour should watch out for *The Three Stooges* (PG) on August 17, as the Farrelly brothers (behind *There's Something About Mary*) bring the comedy trio into the 21st century.

With *Paranorman* (PG), a tale of a young boy who fights off zombies, bringing the holidays to a close on September 14, there's more than enough to keep you going through the next six weeks. *Who needs the sun eh?*

Barry RFC welcome Cardiff to home field

THIS Saturday, Barry Rugby Club begin their 125th season with a mouth-watering fixture against Cardiff RFC at the Reservoir Field, kick off 2.30pm.

The fixture is the first of a series of special fixtures being arranged for all sections of the club, for this anniversary year.

To get the crowd in the mood, the mini and junior section will provide some pre-match entertainment with a locally arranged game.

As a good crowd is expected, car parking will be located in Bryn Hafren school car park and not at the club car park, which will be closed for the day.

Weather permitting, a bouncy castle will be available on the field to keep the children occupied.

The day will also provide an opportunity for those yet to join our 'Brick Wall Project'; application forms will be available, just ask for Andy Jamieson.

Bricks are going fast, and with the closing date only a week away please make sure you are not disappointed.

The new special 125th anniversary ties and bow ties will also be on sale, so come and join us and help get the year off to good start!

ANDY JAMIESON

Plans to provide living and work spaces for artists

A NEW initiative – the Artist's Housing Co-Operative – a joint venture between Newydd Housing Association and the Vale Council, aims to provide combined living and workshop or studio space, owned on a co-operative basis with other artists in the Vale.

The new scheme is aimed at active artists, makers and artisans based in the Vale who use their talent to earn a living.

Often, the high cost of renting or buying a property which affords the luxury of a separate works space prices itself out of the reach of many artists.

The Artists' Housing Co-Operative offers a solution, as well as helping to create a community of artists in the area.

For more information, contact Alan Sinclair, Affordable Housing Enabler, Vale Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 2AT, or email: asinclair@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

OCEAN LOUNGE
PORTHKERRY
WE ARE NOW OPEN:
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS &
ALL DAY & NIGHT ON SUNDAY TILL 10.30PM
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Every Friday & Saturday Night - plus Bingo
Friday 3rd August
IAIN REED
First Class Vocal Entertainer
Saturday 4th August
PAUL FORD Top Vocalist
Friday 10th August
KARAOKE
Saturday 11th August
RHIAN
Outstanding Female Vocalist
Friday 17th August
FRANK WEBB
Excellent Vocal Entertainer
Thursdays
CURRY & A PINT £5.95
Quiz from 8pm
Food served Thursday & Friday 7-9pm
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CAR BOOT SALE
EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm
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www.firejoust.com
Tel. 01446 710362/711538

Don't miss this great event...
BARRY ISLAND TOY, TRAIN & RAILWAYANA SALE
SUNDAY, 5th AUGUST, 2012, 10.30am-4.00pm
On the platform (under the canopy) at Barry Island Railway Station, Station Approach, Barry Island, South Wales CF62 5TH.
(50 plus tables under the canopy)
STATION CAFÉ - TRAINS RUNNING ALL DAY
BUY ★ ★ SELL ★ ★ EXCHANGE
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Wrenn, Bachmann, Lima, etc and much, much more
Admission £1.65 - Child/OAP £1.25
Enquiries: 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
E-Mail: dyer@minehead46.freeserve.co.uk
Website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Information Day
The Older People's Commissioner for Wales is an independent champion for older people across Wales.
We want to hear from you
Find out more about how we can help you, tell us what is important to you and learn about our work.
Murchfield Community Centre
Sunny Croft Lane
Dinas Powys
13 August 2012 | 10am to 12pm

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL SAYS FAREWELL TO TEACHER

THE end of term celebrations at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School were tinged with sadness as reception teacher, Mrs Linda Forrester, was retiring.

Mrs Forrester has been at All Saints some 25 years since the school's early days and has taught a range of age groups.

She received many cards, gifts and good wishes and the staff paid a special tribute to her during the celebration assembly, with a surprise performance.

Everyone wore a 'Linda mask' and sang a humorous rendition of 'So Long, Farewell' from The Sound of Music.

The children and Mrs Forrester enjoyed it immensely and there was hardly a dry eye in the hall!

Presenting her with a beautiful hand-made quilt as a gift from the staff, headteacher Richard Ware thanked Mrs Forrester for her many years of hard work and said that she would be missed by both staff and pupils. He wished her a long and happy retirement.

Later, at her leaving party at a local restaurant, Mrs Forrester was presented with a beautiful cake made by her friend and colleague, Sharon Smith. **NM**

ABOVE: Mrs Linda Forrester has taught at All Saints for 25 years.

Linda with colleagues.

Linda, with headteacher Richard Ware, about to open her retirement present.

Centenary open day visitor William Miles (seven) takes 'control' in the Lafarge Cement Aberthaw Works central control room, watched and guided by Lafarge's control room operator Aiden Farrell.

LAFARGE OPENS WORKS DOORS FOR CENTENARY

THE sun shone on Lafarge Cement's Aberthaw Works recently as they welcomed more than 200 people to an open day to celebrate 100 years of operation.

The day gave visitors an opportunity to meet employees and talk with them about their roles on site, as well as taking part in a guided tour of the works. An exhibition was also held to give people an insight into the changes that have occurred over the century of operations at Aberthaw.

Works manager James Kirkpatrick said: "We are delighted that so many people took time out to come and help us celebrate our centenary.

"Aberthaw Works has played a very important part in the local economy and communities of the Vale for a long time. It was important to us to mark this milestone by opening up our doors for people to come on site and find out more about our operation in the 21st Century."

The company's celebrations continued into the evening with a party for current and former employees, hosted by Sir Brooke Boothby at Fonmon Castle.

The event included speeches from Lafarge representatives, including the company's UK president, Dyfrig James (who comes from Carmarthenshire), an entertaining talk by Welsh rugby legend Phil Bennett, and a performance from Welsh comedian, Mike Doyle.

EISTEDDFOD STALLS (See code for locations on right of columns)

MAPS will be available at the National Eisteddfod site in Llandow to direct you to the precise location you want.

A
1000 a mwy o fywydau Maes Gwyrdd
... a chrefft Neuadd Arddangos N18
a.r.c.i.p e.l.a.g.o 1140
Abby Hanson – Disconnected Neuadd Wales Arddangos N15
Academi Hywel Teifi/ Prifysgol Abertawe S128
Action on Hearing Loss Cymru 821-822
Achub y Plant 1136
Adra 103-104
Age Cymru S123
Amgueddfa Cymru 515-518
Amgueddfa Glowyr De Cymru 1138
Amgylchedd Cymru Maes Gwyrdd
Amser i Newid Cymru 1023
Anne Morgan - Gemwaith Neuadd Arddangos N24
Arianne Jewellery 826
Ash Cymru 823-824
Atebol/Sain (Recordiau) A19
Athrofa Gwyrddorau
Biofeddygol Gwyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg
Awen Meirion cyf 601-602
B
Babell Heddwch (Y) 113-114
Barddas 1029-1030
Bay Resourcing – Prif asiantaeth ysgolion Cymraeg 1110
Beacons Creative (Cyngor Crefft Cymru) 313-316
Beirdd Cymru - Y ddolen Hwngaraidd 1027-1028
Bethan Clwyd Neuadd Arddangos N23
Blaid Geidwadol Gymreig (Y) 609
Bling-n-Things 904
Bodlon 710-711
Boots - Fferyllfa Gwyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg
Brifysgolo Agored yng Nghymru (Y) M22-M24
British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru 1105-1108
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro/Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf/ Bwrdd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan 806-808
Byddin yr Iachawdwriaeth - Eglwysi Cymru A76
Byw Bywyd 1204-1206
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AN EVENT TO THRILL THE VALE... SATURDAY 4TH - SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG
VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

'Eisteddfod important for our Welsh nation'

I'M delighted to be able to welcome the National Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan – the first to be held in the county since the Barry Eisteddfod in 1968.

The Vale of Glamorgan has important cultural and historical links with both the Eisteddfod and the Welsh language.

The founder of the Gorsedd of the Bards, Iolo Morganwg – the bardic name of William Edwards – was born near Rhoose, and was brought up in Flemingston, near St Athan.

I'm honoured and privileged to have been nominated to join the Gorsedd at this year's Eisteddfod.

The Eisteddfod is an important event for us as a nation. It's one of our finest arts and cultural festivals, and provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our culture, our heritage, and our language.

The Welsh language is an important and defining characteristic of Wales. It belongs to all the people of Wales – Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers alike.

The Vale has seen a substantial increase in the number of Welsh speakers in recent years. This is largely due to the Welsh-medium education.

For example, the percentage of seven-year-olds in Welsh-medium education in the Vale has risen from 10.9 per cent in 2001 to 13.7 per cent in 2011.

There are now five Welsh-medium primary schools and one secondary school in the Vale.

These include the two Welsh-medium primary schools in Llantwit Major and Barry that opened in September 2011.

The challenge, however, is to go one step further and provide opportunities for children and young people to enjoy using Welsh outside school.

Earlier this year, we launched our new Welsh language strategy – '*A living language: a language for living*'.

It focuses on helping people to use Welsh in everyday life, including through new technology and social media.

The future development and survival of the language will need fresh ideas and must be owned by each and every one of us in Wales.

by **CARWYN JONES**
AM for Bridgend, Counsel General and Leader of the House.

I wish this year's Eisteddfod every success, and thank all those who have worked so hard to bring the Eisteddfod back to the Vale.

CARWYN JONES,
First Minister of Wales

Local company will SiteServ(e) Eisteddfod

MORE than 100 tons of waste will be generated at the Eisteddfod this year, but more than 95 per cent of that will be recycled thanks to a sponsorship deal with local waste management company, SiteServ Recycling.

Based in Llandow and Pencoed, SiteServ achieve recycling rates of over 150,000 tons each year, continuously investing in systems and processes to ensure the highest recyclable recovery rates on all waste.

In fact, a typical week will see the company produce 200 tons of cardboard, 100 tons of newspaper waste, 95 tons of office paper and 20 tons of plastic bottles for recycling. They also handle some 35 tons of polythene and 10 tons of glass each week.

With the latest sorting and segregation technologies and state-of-the-art waste processing machinery, SiteServ offers flexible collection services that include bulk waste handling, hazardous waste disposal, fluorescent tube and computer recycling, municipal waste recycling, paper and cardboard collection and recycling and the secure destruction of confidential waste.

Managing director of SiteServ Recycling, Nigel England, said: "Zero landfill is a target that we must all embrace if we are to meet the increasing requirements of EU legislation and the needs of future generations.

"We actively support many local initiatives and are delighted to be sponsoring the Eisteddfod this year."

Established in 2002, SiteServ Recycling is a specialist waste management company working with businesses and public sector organisations to help achieve zero landfill.

Further information is available at: www.siteservrecycling.com

Straw bale recording studio at Eisteddfod!

A STRAW bale recording studio is being built on the site of National Eisteddfod in Llandow by Hafod Mastering.

It plans to invite a number of bands and artists who will be playing during the Eisteddfod week to do 'unplugged' acoustic sessions at the studio.

Several stalwarts of the south Wales recording industry – Charlie Francis, Llion Robertson, Gethin John and the legendary Krissy Jenkins will be guest producers through the course of the week.

The recording will be made available for purchase online almost immediately, so that Eisteddfod-goers can download these unique recordings straight onto their smartphones.

The studio will be sited on the Maes Gwyrdd (Green Field) part of the festival site.

This will be the first time the Eisteddfod has set aside a corner of the festival to promote alternative and sustainable ways of living.

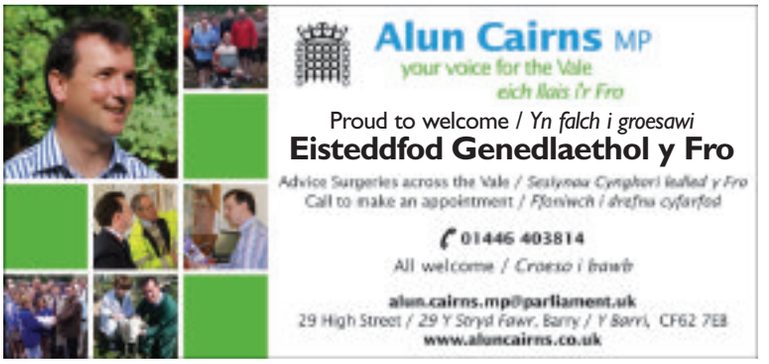
PERFORMING AT EISTEDDFOD!

THE Vale Council has been offering aspiring artists a chance to work and perform with two leading performance artists at this year's National Eisteddfod.

Phil Babot and Cathy Gordon have been hosting a performance art workshop at Palmerston Community Centre every day this week from 10am to 5pm for over-16s of all skill levels.

The participants will be given the chance to perform at the Art Central Gallery at Barry Town Hall, King Square, on August 4 and at the Eisteddfod in Llandow on August 5.

For informaion email: tcharding@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or telephone 01446 700111.



END OF TERM NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL BRO MORGANNWG

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Beth Humphreys (year-7) on becoming National French Spelling Bee champion 2012.

The final was held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth on Friday, July 13. We are very proud of her. Très bien Beth!

Olympic training

A GROUP of pupils went to watch athletes from Trinidad and Tobago, Botswana and New Zealand, as well as Penarth's Brett Morse, training for the Olympic Games at Leckwith Stadium.

They also took part in a questions and answers session.

Health and Fairtrade day

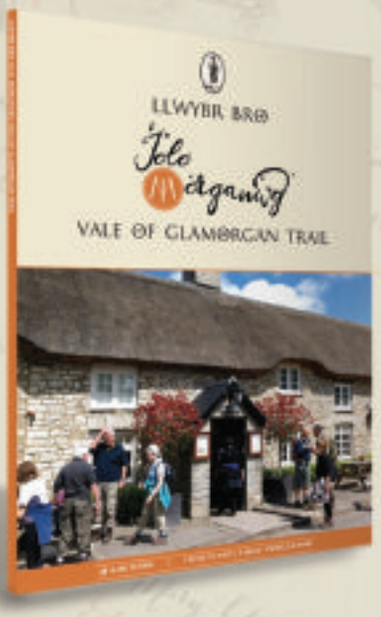
ON July 16, all pupils and teachers at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg were involved in a 'Health and Fairtrade Day'.

We invested in Fairtrade equipment, in order to provide a wide variety of physical activities.

There was also a chance for pupils to cook with Fairtrade ingredients, as well as to find Fairtrade goodies, as they went on a treasure hunt around the school.

We hope to have developed pupils' education of Fairtrade in order to win the recognition as a Fairtrade school in 2013. **MT**

PICK UP YOUR FREE IOLO MORGANWG TRAIL BOOKLET



WALK IN IOLO'S FOOTSTEPS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXTRAORDINARY FIGURE...

WALK IOLO'S CIRCULAR WALK:
6.5 mile / 10.5km walk from Cowbridge

EXPLORE IOLO'S WIDER TRAIL:
A journey to seven beautiful sites relating to his life in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Enjoy the trail!

CERDDWCH YN ÔL TROED IOLO ER MWYN DYSGU MWY AM Y CYMERIAD RHYFEDDOL HWN....

EWCH AR GYLCHDAITH IOLO:
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ARCHWILIWCH LWYBR EHANGACH IOLO:
Taith i saith man brydferth sy'n ymwneud â'i fywyd yn y Fro.

Mwynhewch y daith!

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ABERTHAW / ABERDDAWAN: *The Blue Anchor Inn / Tafarn y Blue Anchor*
DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE AT / CEWCH LAWR LWYTHO'R LLYFRYN O SAFLE: ***www.visitthevale.com***

IF YOU PREFER TO DO THE WALK WITH A GUIDE, **JOIN THE GUIDED WALK NEXT MONDAY 6TH AUGUST** STARTING FROM OLD HALL GARDENS AT **11.00**.
OS HOFFECH WNEUD Y DAITH GYDA ARWEINYDD, **YMUNWCH GYDA NI DYDD LLUN NESAF,** AM **11.00** YNG NGERDDI'R HEN NEUADD.

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Blackbird Road, St Athan - £575 pcm
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Kendrick Road, Barry - £595 pcm
Three bedrooms, Lounge and separate diner, Enclosed rear garden.

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Welford Street, Barry - £625 pcm
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Hywel Crescent, Barry - £650 pcm
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Murlande Way, Rhoose - £675 pcm
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Church Meadow, Boverton - £825 pcm
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- Gardens

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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartments (2)
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- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Co-ordinator
- Gardens and parking

Rent £93.88 per week including service charge

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H4U Reference 201305
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Third floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £84.03 per week including water charges

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H4U Reference 202696
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- Central heating
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- Gardens

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- Central heating
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- Gardens

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COYCHURCH RISE, BARRY

H4U Reference 206135
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- Gardens

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CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY

H4U reference 1093012
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking/shared access

Rent £71.39 per week including service charge

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 208913
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family– no pets
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £77.24 per week including service charge

GATEHOLM CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1093023
Suitable for a family
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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GERAINT PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 210069
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- Gardens

Rent £96.22 per week including water charges

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H4U Reference 1093034
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- Central heating
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- Gardens

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- Central heating
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- Scheme Co-ordinator
- Shared access/parking

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H4U Reference 211831
Suitable for a family
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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H4U Reference 329488
Suitable for a family
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £79.79 per week including water charges

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H4U Reference 215540
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £94.79 per week including water charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1093125
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- Studio (second floor, lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager
- Community alarm

Rent £91.90 per week including service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1091685
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- Flat (first floor with lift)
- Walk-in shower
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager/alarm

Rent £102.15 per week including service charge

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U reference 243200
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55–no pets
- One-bedroom flat (SF)
- Water meter
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- On-site warden/alarm

Rent £79.73 pw including alarm and warden charge

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H4U Reference 1032048
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £76.84 per week including service charges

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 226214
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £91.87 per week including water charges

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U reference 228212
Suitable for a single person couple or family–no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £80.00 per week including water charges

PLASSEY STREET, PENARTH

Hafod Housing Association Limited is developing a scheme of sixteen one and two-bedroom flats in Plassey Street, Penarth, which will be available for letting in late September 2012.

The block is part of a scheme of flats for rent and low cost home ownership.

We invite members of the HOMES4U scheme only to submit expressions of interest to rent in this scheme and to ensure those are received by **Wednesday 8 August.**

Failure to meet the closing date will mean that your request for consideration will not be included in the shortlisting process.

ELFED AVENUE, PENARTH

Newydd Housing Association are proud to announce the release of three four bed properties. These high quality, energy efficient homes will be ready for occupation in September 2012

We are committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references or carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this development. Bids are invited for these four-bedroom houses.

Preference will be given to:
- existing social housing tenants who have a priority need to be rehoused and have an excellent tenancy history, with no record of arrears or anti-social behaviour; and
- applicants with a local work or life connection to Penarth.

(H4U Reference 1093045)

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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Family Notices

BUCKLAND
Raymond
Lily and family wish to thank all friends and neighbours for all their kind messages and lovely cards received following their sad loss.
Very special thanks to W A Brown & Son and Reverend Huw Butler for the lovely service.

JUPP
John Heaton
11.8.1935 – 25.7.2012
Peacefully in the Marie Curie Centre, Velindre Hospital, after a long illness bravely and stoically fought, John of Rhoose, beloved and devoted husband of Pat, a dear and respected father of Phillip and loving father-in-law of Sheila.
A service of thanksgiving and remembrance in John's memory is to be held in St Marys Church, Penmark on Tuesday, August 7 at 1pm after a private cremation.
By request family flowers only, but donations in lieu to Holme Tower in John's memory if wished, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ. For further information contact W James & Sons, Fonmon, 01446 710096.

HODSOLL
Alan Geoffrey
On July 21 at the Marie Curie Unit, Velindre Hospital, Alan of Peterston-Super-Ely, beloved husband of Bonnie, dearly loved father and grandfather.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday August 3, service and interment 2pm at Peterston-Super-Ely Parish Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

JENKINS, Neil
Kath, Alex, Dan, Thomas and families would like to thank everyone for the many condolence cards and flowers received. We have been overwhelmed by all the support. We would also like to extend our gratitude to everyone who attended Neil's funeral and a special thanks to Reverend David Boult and Sam Smith for a beautiful service.
Neil was loved by so many and he is greatly missed.

CLASSIFIEDS

- Family Notices
- Recruitment
- Buying & Selling
- Trade
- Property
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Graduation
- Births etc
- Car sales

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on **2nd August**

To our little Princess. Couldn't imagine our lives without you!
All our love, Mum, Dad, big sister Chloe, family and friends.
x x x

Thank You

Mary's (Bernice's) BIG BIRTHDAY

I'd like to thank all my family and friends for their lovely cards and presents.
Here's to the next time!!

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CADSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL WOWS LARGE CROWDS AT BARRY'S VICTORIA PARK

THE Cadstock music festival is now a popular annual event at Barry's Victoria Park.

These images by local photographers Lauren Allen and Andy Wicks show just some of the hundreds of people that turned up over the festival weekend.

The event gives talented local bands the chance to play – and strut – their stuff.

IMAGES by Lauren Allen

PHOTO by ANDY WICKS

PHOTO by ANDY WICKS

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS ARE HONOURED WITH AWARDS EVENING

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS

LLANTWIT MAJOR Junior Football Club recently held its awards' evening to honour the young players for their success in the last year.

The ceremony was held at the local leisure centre and the number of people attending demonstrated the health of football in the town. Among the special guests presenting awards was Coun Eric Hacker, the Mayor of the Vale.

ABOVE: The Under-10 Dragons receive their awards from the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker.

TOP RIGHT: Under-9 footballers with their awards.

LEFT: The Under-15 team members.

RIGHT: The Under-12B team with their trophies.

Farmers' enjoyable day at Bay

MEMBERS and guests of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society visited Langland Bay Golf Club last Thursday for their annual pairs' competition kindly sponsored by Maesglas Veterinary Group.

ABOVE: Celebrating success on the golf course!

A perfect setting for an afternoon round of golf with magnificent views over the sun drenched packed beaches of both Langland Bay and Caswell Bay followed with the customary high class evening meal was much appreciated by the 37 participants.

Main talking point at the 19th hole was the late charge up the leader board of Reg Davies and Trevor Wooding. The dreaded 'shanks' which has accompanied a rather depressed Reg throughout the past year has hopefully been overcome. Collecting seven points on the last two holes including a magnificent birdie on the 18th to take fourth place was just reward for Reg and his playing partner Trevor Wooding.

Members were also pleased to see Tosh Taylor making a long overdue return to the winner's enclosure benefiting this time from dove tailing well with his secret partner Jim Hayes.

In the guest section Barrie Melhuish and Gareth Perkins finished strongly by scoring six points on the last two holes to finish runners up to the winners Peter O'Toole and James Hayes who were playing together for the first time.

Leaderboard - members' section: winners:

Tosh Taylor & Jim Hayes with 37 points, runners up Lyn Thomas & Godfrey Lewis with 35 points; third place Bryan Owen & Glyn Watts-Jones with 34 points; fourth place Reg Davies & Trevor Wooding with 33 points.

Guest section: winners Peter O'Toole & James Hayes with 39 points, runners up Gareth Perkins & Barrie Melhuish, 38 points (19 on back nine); third placeBrian Lakin & Geoff Moore, 38 points (18 on back nine).

Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored longest drive won by Julian Kelly, Premier Turf sponsored lost ball competition won by Robert Bartle.

Llanerch Vineyard Restaurant sponsored nearest the pin competition prizes on the par 3 holes won by Robert Bartle (2), Chris Rooney and Julian Kelly.

The Semi final draw of The Nipper Jewell Knock Out competition has produced an intriguing clash between brothers Brian and Glyn Watts-Jones and in the other match Aubrey Bowen has been drawn to play Godfrey Lewis.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 17 when members and invited guests will be visiting Builth Wells Golf Club for the rearranged meeting to play for The Shrieval Cup kindly sponsored by the family of the late Mr Islwyn Rees. **T.McC**

West Wales team in good shape

LIKE everyone else the Cowbridge West Wales side had become used to monsoon conditions but on July 21 a strange incandescent ball was observed in the sky over the town.

It warmed the wet ground and the grass behind the cattle market to produce a lush pasture which was heavily trampled and torn up. In consequence the outfield was not only very slow but the boundaries had to moved in by ten yards.

Fortunately the visiting team, Swansea Civil Service, were philosophical perhaps being largely DEFRA employees and having won the toss they sensibly put Cowbridge in to bat.

For the first time this year the opening pair both failed but Michael Hordley was not helped by a nasty tendon injury suffered during catching practice before the game.

Fortunately the migratory Parker Bird was visiting for the summer and coming in at number 5 baffled the opposition with its unusual stance and successfully pecked away at the bowling until the end of the innings thus providing the essential support to hold up the side, scoring 15 not out in the process.

Rian Thomas scored an elegant 14 but the batsmen otherwise seemed disorientated by the unusual conditions and only 44 runs were scored which with 15 extras made a total of 59.

Both Michael , with his hand strapped up, and Rian from the difficult town end did their best with Guy Parker adding some variety. Despite their best efforts the Swansea number one batsman could not be contained and scored 80 per cent of the necessary response. Swansea Civil Service made the score for the loss of only 3 wickets.

With the above experience in mind, and memories of 130 added for the last wicket by Dafen at the time of the home game, Cowbridge were determined to do better when visiting Llanelli the following Saturday.

The weather was bright but windy and there was a chill in the air blowing off the Lougher estuary. Dafen won the toss and elected to bat. Steady progess was made by both sides with occasional bursts of furious energy from Dafen's previous high scorers although on this occasion their combined total was cut by a half.

Waquir Saadat with the wind behind him and Michael Hordley against both worked hard Michael finishing on 3 wickets for 25 runs and Waquir on 4 for 51. Rian Thomas with 3 for 38 and bowling with considerable thought supported them well.

If it had not been for a record number of inside edges that some how missed the leg stump the Dafen score would have been a lot less. They finished on 183 all out, Cowbridge's own first inning's score for the home leg of the match.

For a brief moment it looked as though the reply would be a sad failure but then while Jon Brazier kept one end safe, Michael Hordley set about the bowling, in particular relishing anything short out side the off stump.

When he was finally out for 45, and with Jon Brazier looking very steady, a good if not winning score looked possible. Jon was eventually out in the fortieth over having made an invaluable contribution and given the fewest possible chances.

The rules stated however that Cowbridge must use the overs Dafen did not and so had to keep the innings intact for a further 8 overs. A brisk 14 from Richard Owen helped them on the way and some stonewalling from the captain saw them to a total of 117 for 6 from 48 overs.

Having bowled Dafen out and gained 3 batting points Cowbridge finished ahead on points and with a feeling that revenge had been gained. It was real team effort and something to be proud about. The team is currently in the best position they have experienced in the league for over ten years.

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Cowbridge bowlers in defeat

The sun shone on the Cowbridge lady bowlers, but they weren't able to capitalise on the good weather with two away defeats.

First, in their Cowbridge Shield Match at Pencoed, they lost 27-67, with all three rinks losing.

On captain Pat Holdsworth's rink (with Diane Purnell, Diane Lloyd and Sue Flower) they lost 11-21.

The rink of Glenys Davies, Thelma Jones, Joy Woolford and skip Shirley Wilkinson lost 8-25, and on the rink of skip Anne Jarvis, Lynda Wilson, Shirley Dunsworth and Janet Morton they lost 8-21.

Things got no better in their league match at Millwood, with another loss by 25-73. Rink scores and teams: Mary Thomas, Pat Holdsworth, Judy Springett and skip Joan Bradley lost 8-26. Lynda Wilson, Janet Morton, Anne Jarvis and skip Sue Flower lost 10-24.

The rink of Diane Purnell, Phyllis Price, Shirley Wilkinson and skip Pat Davey lost 7-23.

Their next two matches are both at home, so they will be looking for some better results.

The men had three matches this week, plus a Cup match last Friday (July 27) at Penarth Windsor. On the Wednesday (July 25) they played a Munro Cup match away at Murch, and had a close result, only losing 50-62.

There were close games on three of the rinks, with only the rink of Dennis Snelling going down 10-21. The other three rinks only lost by one shot!

The rink of skip John Trott, Terry Dunsworth, Danny Powell and Guy Morton had a good win, 16-14.

Len Taylor, Gerry Lloyd, Brian Kent and skip Norman Wilkinson lost 11-12, and the rink of Clive Pritchard, Mick Davey, Ron Woolford and skip Byron Richards lost 13-15.

On the Friday we played in the Huw Medding Cup, which was a round robin, and of the four matches we only won one, so did not qualify for the knock-out stage.

On Saturday we played our league match at home to Abertridwr, winning well, 100-54, for 14 points.

Captain Dennis Snelling's rink of Mansel Davey, Brian Kent and John Jones won 26-16. The rink of Charles Sanders, Michael Bradley, Colin Wilson and skip Norman Wilkinson won 23-16.

Terry Dunsworth, Clive Pritchard, John Trott and skip Byron Richards won well, 25-10, and skip Roger Barwick's rink of Ron Frayling, Guy Morton and Steve Dickens won 26-12.

Then on Sunday, the club played our cancelled league match away at top of the table St Joseph's, losing badly, 53-122, with losses on all four rinks.

Dennis Snelling's rink lost 9-29. Michael Bradley's rink had the best game but also lost 14-24, and on the rink of Norman Wilkinson, they had a heavy 14-36 defeat.

With four games in five days, captain Dennis Snelling wishes to thank all the men for their support at a difficult time, getting players to play so much.

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Cowbridge Seconds slip

AFTER last week's excellent victory against Briton Ferry, Cowbridge were hopeful of repeating the same against Llandysul last Saturday.

The Cowbridge skipper won the toss and decided to bowl first.

Things did not start well for Cowbridge with some wayward bowling that allowed the Llandysul openers to get off to a flyer.

The brakes were finally applied with the introduction of Harri Collier and Matthew Keating. Both bowled very well but despite wickets falling from time to time the score continued to rise.

In the end Llandysul managed to reach 186 off their 50 overs for the loss of 9 wickets with all the wickets going to Matthew Keating, 4 for 52, and to Ian Evans who finished with terrific figures of 5 for 25.

Cowbridge's innings got off to a bad start with the captain going early and after that there was a procession of wickets with only Chris Ross (47) able to provide any resistance.

Cowbridge were never in with a shout of reaching the Llandysul total and it was left to Guy Parker and Matthew Keating to fight a rearguard action to avoid a Cowbridge defeat. In the end Cowbridge finished on 118 for 8 off their 50 overs.

Apart from the bowling exploits of Ian Evans and Matthew Keating, this was a below average performance by Cowbridge.

Cowbridge still sit top of the table but will have to pull their socks up if they want to maintain this position for the rest of the season.

JW

'Fishathon' raises £3,000 for Y Bont

Event winner, Rob Crewes-Rees with Marged Griffiths

Junior winner, Liam Fraser.

OVER the weekend of June 29– July 1, at Treoes Lakeside, Bridgend, the Glamorgan Anglers held their annual 48-hour 'Fishathon' in aid of Y Bont, a local charity for children with a disability.

Around 32 hardy and determined club members fished the event, enduring wind and rain to raise £2,845 for the charity, with a further £318 raised in Gift Aid!

Marged Griffiths, general manager at Y Bont, presented the prizes to the winners and accepted the cheque, thanking the club members for their generosity:

"Raising money is becoming more and more difficult in the current climate and we rely heavily on the support of local people and groups to help keep Y Bont running.

"Y Bont is a unique provision in the area and there is no similar service for the families who access its support. Every penny raised will be used directly to help local children and their families."

Prizewinners were: Event winner, Rob Crewes-Rees 323lb; Junior winner, Liam Fraser; Women's winner, Jenny Collins; Biggest Silver, Kevin Hunt; Biggest Carp, John Hatter.

MG

Dockers FC training

DOCKERS FC are currently training on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6.15pm start, at Pencoedtre Playing Fields. New players are welcomed to train with both the First and Second teams.

JH

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Cadoxton undone by St Peters

CADOXTON continued to lose ground in their attempt to stave off relegation from ML3 when they visited Roath Park for this game against St Peters, who, prior to the game, were also in dire straits.

Only the rink skipped by Howard Craven had any success with a plucky display on a difficult green. They took first blood with three shots during the first two ends, but after six ends they trailed 6-3.

Two singles narrowed the lead, before a '4' regained the advantage. This superiority was held for the remainder of the game, although a late flurry from the home side kept the result in the balance until the last end.

Phil, and the two Bills, played a big part in setting up a very tight head, which was finalised when Howard drew the shot with his last bowl to ensure the win.

Graham Brown's rink had some early success and led 9-6 after nine ends. They moved on to tie the scores at 11-11, but two '3's took away the initiative.

Two '2's shortened the difference, before seven were lost in the next three ends to leave them nine down going into the final end. The two shots scored were not enough.

Don Kuhnell was fighting an uphill battle on his rink. Although the green was not very true; as on all the rinks, the position was not helped by constant tight bowls played by his team. As a result any chance of victory was dwindling away until the mat was brought up the green.

This started a spirited comeback which reduced a 12-shot deficit to just four shots.

However, a jack under-delivered gave the chance back to the opposition to revert back to their favoured length, which produced two '4's and a '3' to take the ensuing result out of sight.

A similar pattern emerged on the rink skipped by Kelvin Chedgzoy, which found little chance of progressing, and trailed 3-12 after eight ends. This was followed by a better period which reduced the difference to just two shots on the 14th end.

Unfortunately, a '5' was conceded on the next and this set-back was never recovered.

Scores: P Ellis, W Vaughan, W Eadie, H Craven – 19-16; G Solomon, D Evans, D Brook, G Brown – 17-24; T Bishop, L Cundliffe, L Davies, D Kuhnell – 19-30; D Tuck, M Mathews, J Davies, K Chedgzoy – 14-23. ***Final score: 69-93***.

DK

Volvo might try a driver's patience...

Motoring by Tim Saunders

PATIENCE is a virtue.

That's what I've always been told. Sadly, though this isn't one of my strengths and it shows when I run late.

I've got a meeting at Gwel an Mor, Portreath, Cornwall at 4pm, and despite leaving Hampshire at 10am, it looks as if I'm not going to make it in time.

So the Volvo S80 D5 SE Lux Geartronic four door saloon has a tough job to please me over this 200-mile journey, which the AA says can be covered in four hours.

When there's a straight run, the Volvo is a delight – the six-speed automatic box is generally smooth, occasionally a little jerky. The intelligent cruise control cleverly keeps the car a safe distance behind the car in front and even automatically accelerates as long as the vehicle ahead is moving.

Disappointingly, it doesn't operate at standstill, requiring driver intervention. When the Volvo isn't following a vehicle, cruise control works at speeds of 20mph and above.

It's on overtaking that this system becomes frustrating, because the S80 maintains the speed of the vehicle it was behind, making it necessary for the driver to kick the accelerator and override the system.

Once you realise this, there's no problem, but it might be useful if the car could sense when it's overtaking and act accordingly.

Over a long journey it becomes apparent that there are too many distractions from safety gadgets for my liking. The lane departure function makes an annoying buzz whenever the sleek Swede strays over the centre-line of the road or something comes into its path, which happens a lot, to my surprise and eventual irritation.

Thankfully, this can be switched off, although it automatically comes back on every time the engine is started.

The BLIS (Blind Spot Information System) function that sees a red light flash on the inside of either wing mirror, when a vehicle is present, is helpful.

But this, combined with the lane departure function, and the flashing light that appears on the dash, when an object such as a traffic light is a little close for the Volvo's liking, proves too annoying for me.

Undoubtedly these safety features are very worthy but they end up making me take my eyes off the road. Perhaps this is because I am unfamiliar with the vehicle, as I explain in my video at testdrives.biz.

My concern is that drivers could become lazy by relying on these functions and then forget themselves when driving other vehicles.

These qualms do not detract from the fact that the S80 is an excellent long distance companion, with plenty of power when required.

This diesel will travel from 0 to 60mph in just 8.1 seconds and onto 140mph, laws permitting. The interior is incredibly comfortable, light, airy and spacious.

The front seats cosset their passengers in a way that few others do – they are even electrically heated and cooled. I particularly like the cold function, as leather does have a tendency to get sticky on a hot day.

So, despite my moans we arrive at Gwel an Mor, Cornwall thoroughly relaxed.

Unfortunately, the near side rear tyre suffered a puncture and to my surprise there is no warning light on the dashboard to alert me – and I can't tell when I'm driving.

I only discover the sorry looking rubber on my arrival in Cornwall. In common with other manufacturers, Volvo no longer provides a spare wheel, instead a puncture repair kit that plugs into the cigarette lighter.

A solution from a bottle screwed to the kit is then pumped through the tyre in about seven minutes, temporarily repairing the puncture. Once this process is complete the Volvo can be driven up to 50mph for no more than a few hundred miles.

On locking the S80 for the night, I have an issue with the lights. Although lights on a Volvo have always automatically switched on and off there is the option to turn them on manually, which I do and then proceed to forget that I've done so.

Often a helpful buzzer sounds to alert you of your error – even in my ageing Fiesta. But not in the S80. Thankfully a passer-by tells me.

During our time together the S80 travels to Mevagissey, down the narrowest roads I have ever encountered and tackles frustrating double roundabouts, which are a common occurrence throughout Cornwall – and from my observations incredibly easy for many pre-occupied motorists to misjudge.

"Overall this stylish, supremely luxurious vehicle, with its fair share of chrome, does score highly with me. Returning 44mpg results in more than 600 miles from the 70-litre tank.

It has to be said that during the test the S80 has improved my patience too, so perhaps those safety features that annoyed me so much have helped after all.

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GEM sport

The Phoenix rise up at beach rugby tournament

The team pictured with the plate. PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Captain Marina Newth collects the plate.

PENCOED Phoenix were recently in action at a beach rugby tournament.

First up for the Phoenix were Croesyceiliog, Phoenix drawing with tries from Lowri Reeves and Amy Stevens.

Next up were Kidwelly, and the Phoenix won 4-2, with tries from Robyn Wilkins and new girl Charlie Mundy. Sea View ladies were the next to lose to Phoenix, with Ospreys under-18s player Robyn Wilkins among the tries in a 2-0 win.

They then faced Tylortown in the plate final, and the Phoenix won their first trophy in beach rugby thanks to the efforts of their squad; tries came from Amy Stevens (two) and Robyn Wilkins.

Squad: Hannah Brunskill, Michele Halse, Nerys Lloyd, Charlie Mundy, Katie Murphy, Marina Newth (captain), Stephanie Niblett, Natalie O'Shea, Lowri Reeves, Alana Sharespeare, Amy Stevens and Robyn Wikins.

Phoenix are looking to recuit new players, with under -15s, under-18s and senior girls all welcome.

Contact the club on 01656 860152, email: pencoedphoenix@hotmail.co.uk, or visit Pencoed RFC's Facebook page.

JH

Natalie O'Shea lays off before the tackle.

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Veteran Ron has 'bulls-eye accuracy'!

Some golfers, including many professionals, never have a hole-in-one.

This usually requires an extremely accurate shot coupled with an element of luck and someone who seldom hits the green with his tee shot greatly reduces his chances of ever achieving the coveted hole-in-one.

Conversely, someone who rarely misses a green improves his chances quite dramatically. One such player with this bulls-eye accuracy is Ron Walters of Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club Veterans' Section. The days when his long, drawing drives enabled him to reach the long par fives in two might be behind him but accuracy on the par threes has not diminished with age. It fact, it has improved.

He has enjoyed five holes-in-one in, three in the last 10 months and those who play with him would not bet against his repeating the feat in the near future. The downside is that he has to take a lot of banter about his handicap – a small price to pay for his success!

To contact Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club please telephone 01656 783093/771613, or email: secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk; www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk

ABOVE: Ron Walters.

JM

Ironscience to fuel Bridgend Hockey's ambition this year

WITH pre-season training getting underway, Bridgend Hockey are gearing themselves up for another successful season after securing a sponsorship deal with one the UK's leading sports nutrition and supplement providers.

Ironscience, based in Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire, have agreed a sponsorship deal with the club that will see them become the official provider of sports nutrition, supplements and dietary advice to Bridgend Hockey throughout the 2012-13 season.

Steve Murphy, chairperson of Bridgend Hockey Club, was delighted with the deal, saying: "With a very busy schedule of hockey commencing shortly, it is important that all our players, however young or old, take both training and playing seriously.

"Yes, we are a social club, but we have very high ambitions at Bridgend Hockey to remain at the forefront of Welsh hockey both on a senior and junior level."

A relatively young company, Ironscience will offer their vast knowledge in the sports nutrition market and provide all members of Bridgend Hockey with access to their vast range of products.

Bridgend Hockey pre-season training programme is as follows: Ladies' – Monday August 20, 7pm-8.30pm; Men's – Tuesday August 21, 7pm-8.30pm; Ladies' youth – Monday September 10, 6pm-7pm; Boy's youth – Tuesday September 11, 6pm-7pm.

If anyone is interested in joining Bridgend Hockey, visit: www.bridgendhc.co.uk for more information. We welcome players of all ages and skill levels.

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PLGC MEMBERS SHINE AT SWIM

LAST Saturday saw Porthcawl Life Guard's Club's (PLGC) annual around the bay swim on Coney beach, Porthcawl.

The weather was lovely and the sea was rather choppy, but more than 50 competitors took part in swimming one of the two courses available.

The short course was a one way swim from the start line on the water's edge out to a marker buoy and out to the slip near the harbour, this was the 'short' course.

The long course included a return swim back to the beach which, overall, was a full mile out and back.

Results: Long course – Junior Girl: First, Molly Thackery; second, Katie Mills; third, Megan Jeal.

Long course – Senior Ladies: First Zoe Thomas; second Kelly Morgan; third, Julia Malick.

Long course – Master Ladies: First, Kerry Thomas; second Ros Edmonds; third, Sian Loghiln.

Long course – Junior Boy: First, Owen Leary; second, Arran Wilkinson; third, Jack Holder.

Long course – Senior Men: First, James Hokin; second, Andrew George; third, Ross McMeekin.

Long course – Master Men: First, David Murray; second Matthew Stroud; third, John Brown

Overall winner – Owen Leary.

Short course – Junior Girl: First, Nicky Davenport.

Short Course – Senior Ladies: First, Carys Hokin; second Gemma Davies.

Short Course – Master Ladies: First, Alison Jones; second, Rose Jones.

Short Course – Junior Boy: First, Harry Hoder; second, Keenan Napper; third, Max Hendrey.

Short Course – Master Men: First, Craig Napper; second, Tory Lewis; third, Nigel Taylor.

Overall winner – Harry Hoder.

Congratulations go out to all who took part, and many thanks to the dozens of people who turned out to support the swimmers and made the afternoon yet another successful event hosted by PLGC.

Don't forget we are always looking for new members and families of all ages and abilities.

For more information, contact our club secretary Mrs Penny John via email: secplgc@hotmail.com.

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ST ANDREWS MAJOR GOLF CLUB

Coldbrook Road East, Nr Cadoxton, Barry
Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1BL

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Fax: 01446 748953

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